

CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

Defence policy • Electoral reform • Youth Training Scheme



Commentary
Geoffrey Smith

Mr Cecil Parkinson can expect a comforting reception when he speaks to the conference today. The mood at Blackpool is to close ranks, to proclaim to the world that "we won't be programmed by the press". One hears the complaint time and again that the episode has received exaggerated attention from the popular papers and that for Mr Parkinson to resign now would be to allow him to be hounded from office.

The party's determination to stand firm has no doubt been much strengthened by Mrs Thatcher's firmness. It would be doubly damaging to the Conservatives if Mr Parkinson were to depart at this stage. Not only would the party be the first time on a major political issue, as this has become, she would have been forced to surrender an unequivocal position.

It would also, I believe, be damaging to British politics in general if Mr Parkinson were to resign at this point. There have to be standards in public life, but if there is not to be hypocrisy, malice and prudence, it is necessary to be clear what those standards should be.

Pleasant though it would be if everyone who held public responsibility was of blameless personal conduct, that is simply not possible. History suggests that it is also not relevant to a person's capacity to hold high office cannot be measured by his distance from the angels.

It is right, though, to insist on rigorous standards in the conduct of public responsibilities. For example, I believe that it is correct to be strict about any whiff of corruption and to regard it as a grave offence to lie to the House of Commons.

Private conduct is relevant only insofar as it affects a person's capacity to perform his public duties. It might affect either his personal performance or the confidence he commands. A frequent drunkard might well be rendered incapable of consistent efficiency, and popular respect for a politician might be so diminished by scandal that he could not exercise the leadership required of him. But these should be pragmatic judgments in determining a person's fitness for high office.

Unfair to judge too soon

How does Mr Parkinson measure up to these criteria? He has not been guilty of any misdeed in the conduct of his public responsibilities. So far as one knows, he has been frank in disclosing his private misconduct. That misconduct should not itself be a reason for his resignation. But might it indirectly have destroyed his capacity?

It is hard to believe that businessmen or civil servants either at home or abroad would feel unable to deal with an otherwise competent minister who was guilty of marital infidelity. But might that competence itself have been undermined?

It could have been in one of two ways. His nerve could have been broken, his energy critically weakened, by what must have been a harrowing experience. The more personal sympathy one extends to him for the buffeting he has received the more one should be prepared to consider this possibility.

Or, no matter how resilient he may be, he may find that the storm does not subside, that however much he may talk about trade and industry nobody is interested in anything he says on any topic beyond his private life. If that were to happen, it might make his task impossible.

But these are judgments that can fairly be made only after a period of time. If Mr Parkinson were to resign now, he would be going because of the hue and cry, not because of the indirect long-term consequences of the hue and cry.

There is another separate consideration. After a while an energetic, ambitious politician in his early fifties, who is told on all sides that he can now expect to rise no higher, might well lose his appetite for public life. In that case he might drift out of active politics, or at least out of government, in a few years.

But I am not implying that he ought to resign after a decent interval. If none of these doubts is realized, there is no reason why he should do so because of this episode now or in the future.

Ministers will not alter policy on public spending, Lawson says

There is to be no change of course. To bring inflation down still further, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made clear that the Government would continue to stick to its policy of keeping government spending within the limits of what the country could afford, of curbing the printing of money.

It was essential to create conditions in which interest rates came down still further, he said during the economic debate at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool.

The British economy, he said, had been recovering from the recession rather faster than their major European competitors and there was no sign of recovery coming out. It looked as if the economy was growing by up to 3 per cent rather than the 2 per cent forecast at the time of the Budget. For the first time since the recession, the number of people in work had begun to rise again.

He emphasized that he was not going to follow the primrose path of financial tax reductions by letting borrowing rip. Hard choices would have to be made but excessive public expenditure and the taxation required to finance it was the enemy not the source of new jobs.

Abolition of the child allowance and its replacement by a "domestic allowance" was suggested by Mr Kenneth Richardson, North-West Norfolk, when he opened the debate.

He introduced a motion endorsing the Government's economic policies and stressing that continued success would only be possible if power taxation and further control of public expenditure were afforded the highest priorities.

Mr Richardson said that the electorate realized that any plan for a safe future must be based on real values and that any diversion from this would only be an expedition into cloud-cuckoo-land.

He called for a moratorium on pay increases and increased welfare benefits as the only way to stop the rising cost in the public sector. At the end of a one-year trial period they could judge what success they had achieved and any increases

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Gordon Wellman, Howard Underwood, and Barbara Day

could be granted accordingly. In an overcrowded country they should disperse with the wind, he suggested substituting a domestic allowance which would be judged by the reduction in unemployment rather than by the reduction of taxation.

Mrs Brenda Urting, Portsmouth, South, said that a minority in the party held the view that in their second term of government they should change the direction of their economic policy.

"This would not only be the height of folly but a betrayal of Britain's future. Changing course now would mean a betrayal of every voter who put a cross against a Conservative candidate in June," (applause).

Mr Louis Browne, Birkenhead, opposing the motion, declared himself as "a wet and proud of it". He told the representatives that it was about time the unemployed people of this country were given some consideration.

Mr Geoffrey Gilson, Beaconsfield Young Conservatives, said that he opposed the motion because it did not recognize that to meet the two major objectives of economic policy the government must withdraw its commitment to make available for all, free welfare provided by state institutions.

The two objectives were to reduce taxation and lower inflation. By all means let the Government continue to ensure access by all to proper health care and education but, where possible, that provision should be from the private sector and, where practical, the consumer should be made to pay.

The message of the electorate to the Government in 1979 and 1983 was clear. He said: "These plans were simple but direct - don't just manage the state sector, roll it back (applause). Don't just streamline government, get it off our backs. Don't swap one tax for another, cut

them all (applause). Denationalize, privatize, decentralize, don't tinker with the economy, set it free."

Sir Donald Walters, Wales, said that most people were bemused by economic jargon. It was vital to take the majority of the nation with them by demonstrating the validity and common sense of the economic policy. He supported the motion.

Mr Robert Holliday, Colchester South and Maldon, said that the Government had not defeated inflation. It had got inflation under control and must keep it under control. He hoped Mr Nigel Lawson would continue raising tax thresholds, as Sir Geoffrey had started to do, because it was the only fair way.

Mr Lawson, replying to the debate, said that the Labour Party was so impressed by what the commentators had said that one-sided nuclear disarmament would be its infrequent fits of unity, based on, to use Mr Roy Hattersley's unusually frank expression, "the camaraderie of common hatred".

In 1979 the Conservatives promised the electorate that their top priority would be to bring inflation under control because until this was done none of their other objectives would be attainable. That was the prospect on which this government was first elected. It had been re-elected because it had carried out that pledge.

He continued: "It has happened because we deliberately embarked on a policy of keeping government spending within the limits of what we could afford. Of cutting back government borrowing and of curbing the printing of money. We have stuck to that policy unflinchingly, through thick and thin. It is the only way to stick with it in the years that lie ahead."

The surest foundation for the creation of new jobs was stable prices and that was why there could be no question of any let up in the battle against inflation. Indeed as inflation had come down they were seeing the early stages of an economic recovery that critics claimed could never happen.

No one should underestimate the strength of the long-term pressures for higher public spending. They came from the aging of the population, the development of costly new technologies, the lobbying of vested interests, the inherent desire of all bureaucracies to expand their empires, and the failure to recognize that the state was provided free had to be paid for.

It was his job, the Government's job, all their jobs, to explain to the British people that however desirable the objective, total public expenditure could not be allowed to outstrip what they as a nation could afford.

They must seek every opportunity of allowing the private sector to take over those services which could be done by the state and ensuring that what was done by the state was done as efficiently as possible, and that included the National Health Service.

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Mr John Dorell, chairman of the Conservative Action for Electoral Reform, claimed, amid interruptions, that there was a clear majority in the country in favour of reform in the areas.

Replying, Mr Biffen, urging support for the motion, said: "There is obviously merit in a broadly proportional link between votes cast and seats secured in a general election." The situation now was that the far left could become just one of those national political minorities that could only continue with significant Westminster representation with the aid of some kind of proportional representation. It was not without interest that supporters of electoral reform included the Communist Party.

"There is now a sea-change taking place in British politics. Labour is clearly in retreat. No one can be certain of the future. I suspect, however, that the process of decline will be assisted rather than arrested by the leadership election of Neil Kinnock. At some point the Labour disengagement will create a critical mass. The defections to the SDP will be removed. That is why David Owen maintains a discreet distance from his purported Liberal Alliance partners. It will only be a matter of time before the new coalition is revealed in the end of social democracy whatever personalities are broken in the process."

The deposit had been £150 since 1918, he added. At today's prices that would be more than £2,000. The home affairs select committee of MPs had said £1,000 was appropriate, and the Government had said that figure "under active consideration".

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PR system decisively rejected

The conference reaffirmed its faith in the first-past-the-post electoral system by carrying by an overwhelming majority a motion saying that the system had conferred stability and continuity on the parliamentary institutions. The motion, moved by Mr Tom Arnold, MP for Hazel Grove, opposed the introduction of the proportional representation system.

Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal, and Leader of the Commons, said that the case had not been made for fundamental constitutional change. "This is no time for frenetic innovation with our proven parliamentary institutions that have provided remarkable national stability while accommodating great social and economic change," he said.

Mr Arnold, opposing proportional representation, said: "I do not think it is more democratic to give to the small party or parties an excess of political power, the effect of PR would be to produce a government not worthy of the name of the electorate. It would strike at the heart of our democratic practice and would be a hopeless receipt for confusion."

Mr David Yeld, Hereford, was greeted with shouts of "robust" when opposing the motion, he asserted: "PR is the way forward to a better democratic future for Britain. Voters do not wish to have situations where one majority party has the entire machinery of government at its disposal."

Reform of the electoral system was the way to prevent the take-over by extremist groups. Mr Kenneth Ferguson, Edinburgh, South, said that there were many examples of the competence of PR in local government. In Scotland colleagues look like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Under PR there would be no decent government at all.

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Government resolve to deploy cruise is unshaken

There should be no doubt of the Government's resolve to deploy cruise missiles, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, declared today. He said that one-sided nuclear disarmament would so tilt the balance of power that it would encourage the Soviet Union to believe in success far from reducing the risk of war it would enhance it.

To loud applause, Mr Heseltine pointed out that Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet Leader, was a realist and had to deal with a Tory Government whose nerves of steel were every match for his. A Government that would never gamble with Britain's freedom. The Soviet Union, he said, would never talk realistically to those it regarded as weak. The agenda for peace was there.

Mr Heseltine, who received a long standing ovation, delighted the representatives by launching into Labour's new leadership. He contrasted the Government's safe way forward on defence with Labour's other way of travelling on a "dream ticket". He advised caution. "Do not let aboard. You cannot paper over cracks that are chasms wide. Labour lost the election because they got their message across beyond their wildest dreams."

Opening the debate, Mr Iain Lawson, Dumfries, moved a motion, later carried unanimously, stating: "This conference welcomes the endorsement of the Government's defence policy at the general election but urges continued efforts towards unilateral disarmament and the persuasion of the electorate of the folly of unilateralism."

He said that on June 9, the British people gave the party and its leader an overwhelming mandate, one of the principle reasons for which was the party's policy on defence which was widely regarded as the only credible policy on offer.

"We want peace. We want to spend less on defence, but not at any price. Our priority is peace with freedom," he said. There had to be mutual balances and verifiable force

The defence debate motion, which was carried unanimously, stated: "This conference welcomes the endorsement of the Government's defence policy at the general election but urges continued efforts towards unilateral disarmament and the persuasion of the electorate of the folly of unilateralism."

reductions, but that did not mean unilateral disarmament. The Government had to make clear it was making every effort to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world. But the first qualification had to be peace with freedom. "We will not sell out Britain's defence," he declared to loud applause.

Mr Andrew Rosindell, chairman, Romford Young Conservatives, said that they could be certain that under this Government, Britain would remain adequately defended. The humbug of the unilateralists had been well and truly rejected.

Mr Terry Middleton, vice-chairman of the Northern Area and defeated parliamentary candidate in North West Durham, said: "The British people may be tolerant but they will not tolerate seeing their country defenceless. They never have and they never will." (applause)

He was gravely concerned about the role of some churchmen in so-called peace movement. He had not been convinced by the arguments put forward by Ministers that the task of persuading the electorate of the folly of unilateralism must not be left to the Government.

Mr Iain Lawson: "Folly of unilateralism"

The campaign for Nuclear Disarmament might try to wriggle out of it, but it was obvious that the majority of the people were not prepared to see Britain desert its

allies in Nato and throw away a system of defence which had kept the peace for more than thirty years. Since Nato had existed there had been no war in Europe between independent nations.

Some believed that if Britain was an undefended neutral state a war would be less likely. That was nonsense. If the Soviet Union was ruthless enough to shoot down an unarmed civilian aeroplane with 269 innocent passengers on board who was to say it would not do the same thing to an undefended United Kingdom.

Mr Stephen Day, Bradford West, said the Labour Party talked about having adequate conventional defence forces if there was no nuclear deterrent. "The Labour Party has never believed in defence conventional, nuclear, or otherwise," he said.

He continued: "The ladies of Greenham Common can now go home - although I cannot possibly believe what man would want them back home."

Mrs Doreen Miller, Hendon South, said that she was a peace woman and everyone in the hall was a peace person, but they were all guilty of standing by while the so-called peace movement hijacked the word.

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'Minefield' warning on Green Belt

Conservative MPs and party activists were told yesterday that the Government was "walking into a minefield" in encouraging the release of Green Belt land for housing and other development.

Mr Robin Groves-White, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, told a fringe meeting at the conference that Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, "was not well advised to withdraw his proposals".

Public support for the Green Belts, in the cities and the countryside, was being gravely undermined, he said. It was clear from the response of Conservative backbench MPs and local authorities that there was growing concern about the Government's intentions.

Two recent draft circulars to local authorities would, if allowed through as they stood, undermine their attempts to preserve the Green Belts.

The building industry would be enormously strengthened in its efforts to pick out green field sites, instead of redeveloping sites in inner cities.

"If local planning is to mean anything, and if the Government is to live up to its claims that it is concerned about the environment, these proposals must be withdrawn," he said.

Jenkin defends joint boards

A joint board was not a quango. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, told a Bow Group fringe meeting at the conference that he defended the Government's proposals to abolish the GLC and the other metropolitan authorities.

Legislation promise for voters on holiday

The Government has decided to take action to enable holidaymakers away on polling day to vote in parliamentary and European elections. Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, told the conference at the end of a debate on electoral law.

It would also make some provision for those living abroad to vote in those elections and increase the deposit to a sensible level to deter the purely frivolous candidate. The Government hoped to introduce legislation on those three issues in the 1984-85 session of Parliament.

The conference voted for a motion asking the Government to legislate to allow any person on the electoral register and who was away on holiday on election day to be treated as an absent voter and be eligible to vote by post or proxy.

Mr Mellor said he endorsed the motion and agreed that reform was long overdue. Perhaps as many as two million people were disenfranchised at the last election because of holiday.

The Government believed that it was wrong in principle that holidaymakers should be deprived of the right to vote. Its concern was now considering not whether that should be done, but how best it could be achieved.

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Today's debates

There will be debates this morning on the health, food and farming, and industrial relations. In the afternoon the topics are free enterprise and industry, immigration, and transport.

'Youth training is about work, not political education'

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Employment, told the conference that the pace of change in the 1980s and for the foreseeable future would be so rapid that, failing a flexible approach and the treatment of money spent on up-dating skills as a capital not a current expense, Britain would not win back markets lost to its competitors.

He said that he wished sometimes that the words "education" and "training" could be merged. Until recently, training had not been high enough on their list of priorities. The Youth Training Scheme was not about political education but it was about work.

Miss Sally Marshall, chairman of East Midlands Young Conservatives, said when opening the debate, on employment, that the Youth Training Scheme gave young people the opportunity to escape from the vicious circle of no job without training and no training without a job.

On behalf of the East Midlands Area Council, she successfully moved a motion welcoming "the radical and much needed improvement" in the new provisions for youth training, and

while money and effort was concentrated on the more mundane but essential subjects to produce more employable youngsters.

Mr Tim Bates, Gower, said the scheme was needed but they could beware of believing that by itself it could solve all the problems. There was a skills gap between the present school-leavers and the new recruits needed to work with the new technologies; the scheme could help to solve that problem, but it was no good investing in training for the new technologies if the Government was not prepared to invest in the development of those technologies themselves.

Mr Morrison, replying to the debate, said that, provided the training was of the right quality, Britain had for the first time the foundations on which could be built not only a better trained workforce but also one that could take on and beat any international competition.

It was the Government's job to convince those who were setting out on their careers that not only was it in their own interests to provide a good service but also that by doing so they

would have a far more rewarding life. Today there was a much better understanding of the need for these old-fashioned words "discipline", "pride", and "hard work" when it came to doing a job properly, and that was what the Youth Training Scheme was all about.

The younger generation did not like being patronized. The vast majority of them were not drop-out punk rockers. That was why about 200,000 16 and 17-year-olds had already, of their own accord, decided to take advantage of an offer of a year's training which had not been available to their elder brothers and sisters.

For those who left school aged 16 with few qualifications the prospects must appear at first glance gloomy, but he could say to them and their parents: "For the first time ever you have got the chance to bridge that gap between school and work. If you take it and work at it then you stand to benefit every bit as much as those who were better at their books." The Youth Training Scheme provided a sense of hope.

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

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Four-year sentence for Japan's ex-Premier

Tanaka determined to stay in politics

From Richard Hanson
Tokyo

Kakuei Tanaka, a former Prime Minister who bulldozed his way to the pinnacle of power in post-war Japan, was found guilty yesterday by Tokyo district court for his role in the Lockheed bribery scandal. He was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay 300 million yen (over £14m), an amount equal to the alleged bribe he received.

Mr Tanaka, who is 65, immediately appealed, declaring that he will fight to prove his innocence before the High Court, a process that could take several years.

Mr Tanaka indicated in a statement after his release on 300 million yen bail, that he will refuse to quit politics and remain in the Diet (parliament) as long as he has the "understanding and support" of the people. That decision could create political turmoil.

Though widely anticipated, the verdict and harsh sentence stunned politicians. Never before has a former Japanese Prime Minister been convicted by a Japanese court for crimes committed while serving in the nation's highest office.

Reactions included relief, though perhaps prematurely so. Many would like to relegate Lockheed to the history books after dominating the political scene for nearly seven years.

It is highly doubtful, however, that either Lockheed or Mr Tanaka will fade from view.

The question now is whether Mr Tanaka, who leads the most powerful faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, will be forced to resign his seat in the Lower House of the Diet, which he has held as an independent since the Lockheed charges were first brought against him in July 1976.

If Mr Tanaka continues in parliament - which he seems determined to do - he faces the



Guilty but defiant: Mr Tanaka waves to the press after being released on bail by the Tokyo District court. Behind him is his secretary.

prospect of a bitter parliamentary fight led by opposition parties to force his resignation. Since the LDP commands a majority, the chances of passing such a resolution would appear slim.

The fracas could seriously disrupt the current Diet session, and undermine the position of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, who came to power 11 months ago with Mr Tanaka's strong support. The

worst scenario would be a deep split within the LDP, with one or more disgruntled party faction leaders breaking ranks. Mr Nakasone's position is supported by a fragile coalition led by Mr Tanaka's group.

There is no shortage of would-be prime ministers lurking in rival factions.

Mr Nakasone called for prudence in dealing with the issue of resignation.

Most Japanese believe Mr Tanaka should resign. He remains, however, a charismatic figure in the mostly bland world of Japanese politics. His faction accounts for about a quarter of the ruling party members of Diet.

Throughout the marathon trial, which began nearly seven years ago in January 1977, Mr Tanaka stubbornly declared his innocence.

He and four other defendants were found guilty as charged of bribery and violations of the foreign exchange laws for accepting 500 million yen from the Lockheed Corporation to influence the sale of Tristar jets in Japan in the early 1970s.

Mr Tanaka's personal secretary was given a one-year jail sentence, suspended for three years. Three former executives of the Marubeni Corporation, the trading company which served as Lockheed's agent, received penalties ranging from a two-year suspended sentence to a two and a half years in jail.

The charges stem from events starting in August 1972 when Mr Tanaka was Prime Minister, and so, the prosecution charged, in a position to influence a decision on purchasing aircraft by a domestic airline. Over the following two years, some 500 million yen changed hands from Lockheed via Marubeni and into Mr Tanaka's coffers, the prosecution alleged. Defence attempts to prove alibis for the defendants involved failed.

Mr Tanaka resigned as Prime Minister in 1974 over a separate controversy involving shady land deals, for which he was never brought to trial.

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Kissinger meets Nicaragua rebel chief

From Martha Honey
San Jose, Costa Rica

In an apparent shift of position, Dr Henry Kissinger's special commission on Central America has held closed talks with Señor Alfonso Robelo, the political leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde), the anti-Sandinista rebel group based in Costa Rica.

Earlier, Dr Kissinger had said that his commission, which is on a fact-finding tour of six Central American countries, would not meet either right-wing Nicaraguan or left-wing Salvadorean dissidents.

But on his departure for El Salvador yesterday, he said that he had met Señor Robelo solely in his capacity as "the political leader of some Nicaraguan exiles".

He added: "The only discussion with Mr Robelo was about the political situation and the possibilities as he saw them of elections and democratic evolution in the area. There was no discussion whatsoever of guerrilla activities."

He ruled out the possibility of meeting any more Nicaraguan or Salvadorean political exiles, but offered no explanation why the commission will not be meeting political leaders of the CIA-financed Nicaraguan rebels based in Nicaragua, or of the apparent imbalance of a situation in which powerful new missiles and warheads will be stationed in Europe. Asked if this meant an end to the talks if the new US missiles were deployed, he replied: "You have understood me correctly."

US officials said in Washington yesterday that the Soviet Union might disclose at Geneva how long it would be willing to continue negotiating, but the American spokesman here declined to reveal whether this had occurred. Washington has said Moscow has made several

dr. Kissinger's Bipartisan Commission on Central America was set up in July by President Reagan to report by January on medium and long term US policy objectives for this troubled region. The present week-long tour is its first local assessment of Central American problems.

One of the most outspoken commission witnesses was Costa Rica's former president and elder statesman, Señor José "Pepe" Figueres, who led the 1948 revolution which permanently abolished Costa Rica's army. He said that if the US wanted to topple the Nicaraguan Government it should do so with its own troops and not "hire" Anti-Sandinista mercenaries.

Many of those who gave evidence are part of Costa Rica's counterpart commission appointed by President Alberto Monge to work with the Kissinger Commission.

Geneva arms talks go ahead with break-off warning

Geneva (Reuters) - US and Soviet delegates held three hours of negotiations on limiting European-based medium-range missiles yesterday and the Americans said the talks would continue, despite reports that the Soviet Union wants to break them off.

Moscow's chief delegation at the 22-month-old talks, Mr Yuri Kuznetsov, was asked when he arrived for yesterday's meeting whether the Soviet Union was asking for a recess. "We are continuing," he said. When he emerged, however, he declined to answer questions on how long Moscow wants the talks to go on.

A US spokesman said afterwards that another session in the current round, which began on September 6, would be held at the Soviet mission here on Tuesday.

In West Germany, Mr Leonid Zamyatin, a close adviser of Mr Andropov, said Moscow would break off the talks if NATO went ahead with its planned deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe from December.

Western diplomatic sources said it was the first clear Soviet statement to this effect by a senior official.

Mr Zamyatin said in Hamburg: "We do not want to take part in negotiations leading to a situation in which powerful new missiles and warheads will be stationed in Europe." Asked if this meant an end to the talks if the new US missiles were deployed, he replied: "You have understood me correctly."

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threats to break off the talks if NATO deploys the missiles.

The White House has urged Moscow to continue both the talks on medium-range missiles and parallel secret US-Soviet negotiations on strategic weapons, but insists it will begin deploying the Pershings and cruise if no agreement is reached.

East European sources here have suggested Moscow might regard the actual arrival of the



Mr Zamyatin: 'You have understood correctly'

first of the new rockets, expected next month, as the cut-off date.

Nato sources said Washington has proposed that the current round continue until December 15, a month later than originally planned. So far each round has lasted two months, followed by a two-month recess if this pattern is followed the present session should last until November 6.

In Moscow yesterday, a West German disarmament expert Herr Egon Bahr said the Geneva negotiations would almost certainly be shelved, but not definitively abandoned, if the Nato deployment went ahead.

Soviet top brass invade Warsaw

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Their chests heavy with medals, their heads apparently filled with thoughts of counter-revolution, the top brass of the Soviet and Warsaw Pact armies invaded the centre of the Polish capital yesterday, causing a Georgian traffic jam and the usual flurry of jokes in taxis and cabs.

The occasion was the fortieth anniversary of the Polish People's Army, set up in the Soviet Union to fight Nazi Germany. Most of the official talk, however, has been about the contemporary significance of the Army in defending socialism.

Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact forces, made it clear that the Polish Army still had a political role to play. He said that the forces of internal counter-revolution and international reaction have not abandoned their intention to destroy the foundations of socialism in Poland and snatch the country from the socialist community - high revolutionary vigilance is still needed.

A similar point is made in the latest issue of the Soviet journal, *New Times* which says that "anti-socialist forces in Poland are dressing themselves up as Marxists and are advocating, dangerously, a brand of liberal pluralism."

Soviet warnings to Poland not to dilute socialism and relax its guard have been coming thick and fast.

The keynote speech of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, on the anniversary concentrated more on international developments and the Army's courage during martial law, than on counter-revolutionary challenges.

The anniversary is seen as vitally important to the Polish leadership because of the public blessing from the Soviet Army for the introduction and then the lifting of martial law and because Warsaw is determined to show that it belongs firmly in the camp of the Warsaw Pact.

Soviet war veterans have been touring Poland, endearing themselves by speaking Russian to all and sundry, a fence surrounding Victory Square has been smothered with military camouflage, military police are back on the streets, if only for the day. Diplomats say that they have seen Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Soviet marshal in charge of defending Russia from Korean airliners, in the foyer of an hotel but his name has not so far appeared in the press.

Help for quake victims

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Government has decided to finance an urgent building programme to supply 5,000 new homes within a year for inhabitants of Pozzuoli, a small port near Naples, who have fled because of earth tremors.

Since October 3, the tremors have been frequent and have been responsible for an exodus of about 30,000 people.

The old centre of the town is also the centre of the tremors and buildings have been damaged. The Government has sent 1,500 caravans and 1,200 tents

Sudanese flee from fighting

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi

Widespread unrest in Southern Sudan has resulted in the flight of thousands of refugees into neighbouring areas of Ethiopia and a government campaign to counter a new guerrilla movement called itself Anyanya 2. It is named after the Anyanya Movement, which led Southern Sudanese demands for secession between 1955 and 1972.

There is widespread resentment in the south against the recent decision of President Gaafar Nimeiry to divide the area into three separate regions. This is seen as a move designed to reduce the political weight of southern Sudan, although the President claims it is necessary to avoid a domination of southern affairs by the Dinka tribe.

Other factors contributing to the unrest are suspicions that the movement of some Southern troops to the north is intended to divide the Southerners.

And the recent introduction of a strict Islamic legal system and a ban on alcohol throughout the Sudan has generated dismay in the largely Christian south.

Reports from Juba, the Southern regional capital, say guerrillas attacked Awel, in Bahr El Ghazal provinces at the end of September, killing at least 18 civilians. Some of the Southern soldiers there fled and are reported to have joined the guerrillas.

As a result of the attack - the third in four months - European expatriate workers in a rice project sponsored by the EEC have been withdrawn from the area.

Another clash recently took place at Boma, close to the Ethiopian border, where 150 government troops mounted an attack on a guerrilla group, but suffered heavy losses, according to reports from Juba.

Ethiopian officials say 25,000 refugees have crossed into Ethiopia near the border town of Gambela. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has been asked to help in caring for them, and reception camps have been set up in this area.

One group of refugees claimed they had been strafed by the Sudanese Air Force while heading for the Ethiopian border. It took them 24 days to walk to safety, hiding during the day and moving by night.

Ten shot at end of Chilean rally

Santiago (AFP, AP) - Ten people were wounded by bullets early yesterday when violence erupted at the end of demonstration by a crowd of 50,000, on the first day of a three-day protest against the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

A 23-year-old woman who was shot in the head was on the critical list, doctors said. She was wounded in a clash between four men in a car and a group of demonstrators. Some people were hurt by rubber bullets and tear gas canisters fired by police to disperse demonstrators.

The rally was organized by the People's Democratic Movement (MDP), consisting of the Communist Party, a branch of the Socialist Party and other left-wing groups, and the

National Development Project (Proden), an opposition grouping of the centre and liberal right.

The rally was the largest anti-government demonstration in 10 years of military rule. Police permitted the event but used tear gas, clubs and water cannon to disperse demonstrators marching away from it.

Permission was given with only a day's advance notice and little newspaper publicity.

The rally took place beside an amusement park just off Santiago's main boulevard, two miles west of the city centre.

Scores of banners flying above the crowd as it heard speeches and folk music bore the initials of the Christian Democrats, Communists, various factions of the Socialist

Party and the movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

There were also huge likenesses of President Salvador Allende, who was killed in the coup that brought General Pinochet to power.

The five-party Democratic Alliance, the main non-Marxist opposition front, did not support the rally. Some of its leaders said privately that they wanted to distance themselves from protests led by the Communist Party, which has been excluded from the alliance for advocating violence.

Señor Lavandero, a former Christian Democratic senator and organizer of the rally, said that "no political differences should separate us in the task of ending the tyranny".

Burma will avenge bomb deaths

Seoul (Reuters) - Burma has promised South Korea that it will take strong measures against any country found to be implicated in Sunday's bomb explosion in Rangoon, officials said here yesterday. They added that the measures could involve severing diplomatic relations.

President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea has said that the bombing was an assassination attempt against him and blamed North Korea for the explosion which killed four South Korean Cabinet ministers and 16 other people.

North Korea yesterday rejected the accusation as "preposterous and ridiculous".

Seoul has asked Burma if it can interview a Korean captured in Rangoon on Tuesday during a chase in which three Burmese police were killed by a hand grenade.

● RANGOON: Unofficial sources in Rangoon said that all three suspects were North Koreans, and speculated that they were involved in the bombing (AP reports).

● NEW YORK: American Intelligence officials believe that North Korean agents were behind the bombing, probably with the help from Burmese insurgents, a Defence Intelligence Agency source said (Reuters reports).

Primates pledge church care for refugees

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi

Primates of the Anglican communion, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, ended three days of consultations here yesterday on subjects ranging from the place and function of the Book of Common Prayer to plans for the next Lambeth conference in 1988.

They expressed concern over the increasingly difficult situation - sometimes amounting to persecution - of Christians in some Muslim countries, and emphasized that the Church has a special responsibility to care for the flood of refugees throughout the world.

Twenty-four of the twenty-seven self-governing churches of the Anglican communion were represented. Archbishop Timothy Olufosoye of Nigeria, the senior African primate

present, joined Dr Runcie in presiding over the discussions.

Archbishop Olufosoye said: "We in Africa are interested in the resurgence of Islam, now being supported with funds from Arab countries. This affects Christians adversely." He expressed the fear that "Christianity was being 'squeezed out' in countries like Sudan and Iran."

On refugees, the primates said that the Church had a special responsibility to provide that pastoral care which sought to create and maintain human dignity.

They issued a renewed call to Anglicans to intensify their prayers for world justice and peace and said: "Every act of reconciliation, whether great or small, counts in the gradual building of peace."

Millions face dismissal from party

China launches biggest purge since Cultural Revolution

From David Bonavia, Peking

China's Communist Party yesterday launched a purge to rid party ranks of radical leftists, petty dictators, privilege-seekers and idle, irresponsible and corrupt officials who have damaged the party's image and China's confidence in Socialism.

The purge, which is being referred to euphemistically as a "consolidation" of the party's ranks, has been made necessary by the refusal of a considerable proportion of party members to drop leftist attitudes which they adopted during the lifetime of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The chief targets will therefore be those who rose to power under the Cultural Revolution master-mind of Mao between 1966 and 1976, people who continue to practise factionalism, and party members who engage in acts of violence against others.

It is thought likely that several million members of the party, which at present has 40 million on its roll, will be dismissed, and the opportunity may be taken to reduce it to more manageable size.

Other likely targets are those that "ask the party for higher positions and better treatment."

They openly violate financial regulations and discipline, sabotage state plans, violate state economic policies and illegally retain taxes and profits," the Central Committee said. "They invent all sorts of pretexts to squander, waste and occupy state and collective funds and property."

"With regard to the distribution of housing, wage increases and many other matters — such as employment, education, promotion, job assignments and changing from rural residence to urban for their children, relatives and friends, as well as foreign affairs work — they take advantage of their power and position, conveniences pro-

vided by their work and personal relations to seek special privileges, violate the law and discipline, and encroach upon the interests of the state and the masses."

"They ignore the law, protect and shield criminals and even take a direct part in unlawful activities such as smuggling, selling smuggled goods, corruption, accepting bribes and profiteering."

Bureaucrats were attacked for serious neglect of duty which had caused "horrible waste in the country's production and construction, serious errors in state administration and huge economic and political losses for the party and government."

Running dogs banned

Peking (Reuters) — From the end of this month, all dogs will be banned in Peking. Owners have been ordered to have their dogs destroyed. If not, official dog catchers will patrol the streets and kill any dogs that they find.

The Peking Daily newspaper announced: "In recent years more and more people have been raising dogs in the city, harming environmental sanitation and having an adverse effect on social order."

The city government had therefore ordered local officials to wage a propaganda campaign on "the harmfulness of raising dogs", emphasizing the need to keep the city clean.

There are few dogs in Peking largely because pet-keeping was attacked as bourgeois during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Others were accused of factionalism. "Some of them have turned the units under their charge into territories where they will hold sway and where they rule as overlords."

The "consolidation" campaign is to be carried out from the top downwards.

The strong language of the Central Committee indicates that this will be the most severe move to eradicate undesirable tendencies in party life since the Cultural Revolution itself.

The campaign was decided at the second plenary session of the party's twelfth Central Committee, which has been meeting unannounced here. Mr Hu Yaobang, the Secretary-General of the party will act as chairman of a new central commission to guide the campaign.

The vice-chairmen are Mr Wan Li, Mr Yu Qili, Mr Bo Yibo, who is the permanent vice-chairman or organizational head of the commission, Mr Hu Qili and Mr Wang Heshou.

Mr Wan, Mr Yu, and Mr Bo are senior members of the party Politburo favourable to the political line of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman and *Emminence grise* behind Mr Hu Yaobang.



Souvenir of Paris: A workman dismantling a tower has just reopened after 18 months of renovation and recently celebrated its auctioned on December 1. Three have

Moi frees Odinga from house arrest

Nairobi — The former Vice-President of Kenya, Mr Odinga, under house arrest in Kisumu, western Kenya, since last year, was freed yesterday, the official Kenya News Agency reported. (Charles Harrison writes.)

At the swearing-in of Kenya's Parliament, President Moi said everyone enjoyed the right to democratic freedom but peace and order must be maintained. The cases of those detained were being regularly reviewed.

Several other people held under detention orders were also being freed. It was widely rumoured.

Duke scare

Hongkong (Reuters) — An Andover turbo-prop of the royal flight carrying the Duke of Edinburgh to Bangkok had to return to Hongkong after it developed cabin pressure problems over the South China Sea. RAF mechanics had it in the air again within a few minutes.

Comet coming

Moscow (Reuters) — Soviet astronomers have spotted Halley's Comet as it approaches Earth on its 76-year elliptical orbital path. Using the world's largest mirror telescope at Zelenchuk Observatory in the Caucasus they picked it up at 870 million miles.

Wreck found

New York (Reuters) — Divers said they had found the wreck of the steamship Lexington, owned by Cornelius Vanderbilt, the railway magnate, which burnt and sank in Long Island Sound in 1840 with the loss of 146 lives and a valuable cargo of silver coins.

Last word

Peking (AFP) — Wang Lian, who cut out his wife's tongue and then pleaded guilty to charges of "cruelly mistreating" her, was executed on Sunday in Liaoning province. His attitude to women was widespread, even among Communist Party cadres, the local paper commented.

Miners killed

Johannesburg (Reuters) — Three men, two black and one white, died and two were seriously injured in an accident, 6,200ft underground at a gold mine, west of Johannesburg. A conveyance they were working on dropped from its rigging.

Jet crashes

Pineville, Illinois (AP) — An Air Illinois Hawker Siddeley 748, on a flight from Chicago, apparently suffering mechanical failure, tried to make a forced landing in a lightning storm but crashed into a pond, killing all 10 people on board.

World run

Nagasaki (AFP) — Peter Parake, aged 32, from Sydney, Australia, has begun a Japanese leg of his planned 26,750-mile three-year run round the world. His wife and two daughters are accompanying him in a car.

Flood victims

Bangkok (AP) — Monsoon flooding in 22 of Thailand's 73 provinces has killed 11 people since August and left 800 families homeless. With roads destroyed, food and flat-bottom boats for transport have been sent to stricken areas.

Lederer dies

Jiri Lederer, dissident self-exiled Czechoslovak writer, who died in a sanatorium at the West German health spa of Bad Reichenau yesterday, according to Mr Ludek Pachman, the chess grandmaster. He was 59.

PLO men pledge allegiance to Arafat

From Our Own Correspondent Beirut

Palestinian guerrilla officers who have trained as pilots in Arab air forces but who are now based in Damascus have written to Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, to tell him that they are still faithful to his leadership, contradicting announcements from Syria that they have defected to the Palestinian mutineers.

If the PLO leader can take comfort from such an epistle, however, he can experience only further depression at the news from Damascus that two of his men there were killed and three others wounded.

'Dangerous' American flights anger Greece

From Maria Modiano, Athens

Greece has denounced the United States for "callous disregard" of human life because United States aircraft taking part in Nato exercise "display determination" in the Aegean this week, had "repeatedly and deliberately" violated Greek air space, endangering the safety of civil aviation.

An American Embassy statement that United States aircraft never file advance flight plans when taking part in Nato exercises was rejected.

An official spokesman pointed out that the British aircraft carrier *Hermes* was also taking part in the manoeuvres, but had liaised with the Greek authorities.

Shamir faces clash with unions on cuts

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

As most basic commodities in Israel increased in price by 50 per cent yesterday there were indications of further harsh austerity measures to come from the new government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir and the threat of a clash between the Cabinet and the trade unions.

In a defiant television interview, Mr Yoram Aridor, the hard-pressed Finance Minister, declared his intention of pressing ahead with plans to cut the high amounts of compensation paid to all salaried workers to keep their pay in line with runaway inflation.

The Minister, who is facing calls for his resignation from both inside and outside the government, pledged to take action to cut the compensation irrespective of whether he managed to secure the cooperation of the Histadrut, Israel's equivalent of the Trades Union Congress.

For its part, the Histadrut has called a two-hour strike next Sunday in which hundreds of thousands of Israelis are expected to take part in protests against the tough new economic package.

Union leaders have flatly rejected the suggestion that the effects of the 23 per cent devaluation of the shekel and the 50 per cent cut in subsidies should not be compensated in their wage packets.

Israeli economists have argued repeatedly that government attempts to fight inflation stand no hope if workers refuse to cut their living standards.

Libya lets stranded French go

From Diana Geddes Paris

The first of the 37 French citizens stranded in Tripoli since Sunday left the Libyan capital on an Alitalia flight for Rome yesterday after Libya had agreed to lift the ban on their departure. Most of the remainder are expected to return to France today on a direct flight to Paris, the first since Sunday.

The Libyan Embassy in Paris said that the "slight delay" in their departure was due to the need for "a better verification of identity papers". Such a procedure was completely normal, the Embassy insisted.

It denounced "the campaign of denigration against Libya conducted by the press and insidiously orchestrated by certain French secret services", adding that "contrary to the malicious rumours being spread the Libyan authorities at no point decided to hold the French citizens as hostages, and even less to resort to any kind of blackmail."

It has been suggested that the Libyan action was connected with the arrest in Paris on Friday of Mr Rachid Said Mohamed Abdallah, a member of the Libyan revolutionary committee.

He is accused by the Italian authorities of the murder of an opponent of Colonel Gaddafi, and is suspected of having been involved in the assassination of several other of the Libyan leader's political enemies. There has been an international warrant for Mr Said's arrest since August last year.

Libya is said to have asked Greece, which played a leading role in securing permission for the French citizens to leave, to do everything possible to get France to agree to the release of Mr Said.

However, the High Court in Paris decided yesterday to postpone the hearing of Mr Said's case until October 26, and ruled that he should be held in prison until then.

Mr King and Mr Flynn now face a run-off on November 15 to decide which will succeed Mayor Kevin White, who is stepping down after 16 years in office.

Blacks sway vote in US mayoral elections

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Mayoral elections in Boston, Massachusetts, and Birmingham, Alabama, have provided dramatic new evidence of the growing political muscle of blacks and other minorities in US cities.

In a mayoral preliminary contest in Boston, a city with a troubled history of race relations, Mr Melvin King, a black former state legislator, came first in an eight-man field. He won around 54 per cent of the vote against 25 per cent for his closest rival, Mr Raymond Flynn, a white city councillor.

As with other recent black political successes in Chicago and Philadelphia.

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Israeli economists have argued repeatedly that government attempts to fight inflation stand no hope if workers refuse to cut their living standards.

EEC's cash crisis

December deadline for reform

From Ian Murray, Athens

Thirty of the most influential ministers in the EEC left Athens yesterday facing an uncompromising dilemma: either give in to British demands or let the EEC run out of money.

The work of trying to measure the scale of the British problem has been further out to specialist groups, but it is now clear that the essential political decision to agree urgent radical reforms to save the Community from stagnation will have to be taken by the European summit in Athens in early December.

The three-day meeting of foreign, farm and finance ministers was overshadowed by the news that the Commission was having to suspend payments of some premiums and export refunds in order to make sure that there was enough money for the Community to meet its obligations.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, said in Athens that the Commission has been forced to "close the till" for the next 10 days so that the Commission could work out procedures which would prevent the Community "almost certainly running out of money" by the end of the year.

He made no attempt to hide his irritation with Poul Dalsager, the Agricultural Commissioner, who on Monday issued orders to freeze payment of £240m until next year to overcome the cashflow problem.

"I regret that some hasty announcements and comments were made," he said. "The Commissioner for Agriculture was asked to make proposals he thought it was in his competence to enact."

The leaking of the news about the freeze on Community money undoubtedly cost this year's EEC budget a great deal. Because traders were able to make claims before the formal freeze was legally imposed there was a rush on the bank, estimated unofficially at around £30m during Tuesday.

The Commission will meet in Brussels tomorrow to review the situation and decide what measures will have to be adopted to juggle the Community books.

Because the European Parliament will not vote to release and urgently-needed supplementary budget until later this month, the Commission has already been obliged to take the unprecedented step of paying only half of the £750m in advances for agriculture required this month.

It hopes that Parliament will have voted the extra money through by the time that payment runs out. But next week, when agriculture ministers meet in Luxembourg, they could be asking the Commission for advances for the end of the year in excess of the £240m that Mr Dalsager has been trying to put aside.

This means that the Commission tomorrow may have to devise even more draconian measures. The shortfall may be as high as £360m.

The 10-day freeze on payments will essentially hit traders who are normally advanced 80 per cent of their export refunds. If the Commission does not extend the freeze until the end of the year the payments would go through anyway and the entire exercise would have been pointless.

Mr Thorn regretted what he called "the coincidence which disturbs me greatly" whereby the cashflow problem had come to light during the special council meeting. It did, nevertheless, serve the useful purpose of concentrating ministers' minds on the problem in a way which has not been obvious so far.

A British spokesman told journalists they had been "too bullish" in writing that Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had said that the talks were progressing.

Sir Geoffrey's final contribution to the conference was a complaint that progress had been "disappointing" on the dossier covering ways of improving funds, like the regional one, from which Britain could expect to be a main beneficiary.

He is accused by the Italian authorities of the murder of an opponent of Colonel Gaddafi, and is suspected of having been involved in the assassination of several other of the Libyan leader's political enemies. There has been an international warrant for Mr Said's arrest since August last year.

Libya is said to have asked Greece, which played a leading role in securing permission for the French citizens to leave, to do everything possible to get France to agree to the release of Mr Said.

However, the High Court in Paris decided yesterday to postpone the hearing of Mr Said's case until October 26, and ruled that he should be held in prison until then.

Mr King and Mr Flynn now face a run-off on November 15 to decide which will succeed Mayor Kevin White, who is stepping down after 16 years in office.

In Birmingham, a city once scarred by racial violence and a segregated city hall, Mayor Richard Arrington, a black, was easily re-elected to a second four-year term by trouncing his white opponent, Mr John Katogobis. Race was not a big issue and Mr Arrington captured large numbers of white votes in addition to the solid support he enjoys with the city's black community.

Such a view is not widely held in Washington although it is by no means dismissed.

According to reliable sources here, Iraq is considering construction of offshore-docking facilities in the Gulf which, once connected with under-water pipelines, would enable Iraq to increase its oil exports from about 700,000 barrels a day at present to about 1.7 million.

The Super-Standard aircraft would be seen as a warning that if Iraq attempted to knock out these new facilities (as they destroyed Iraq's main oil export terminal early in the war) the Baghdad Government could effectively retaliate.

Farmers left off but doubts linger

By John Young Agriculture Correspondent

After 48 hours of confusion and uncertainty, it appeared last night that farmers' incomes would for the present remain largely unaffected by the latest crisis over the EEC common agricultural policy.

There had been fears, based on earlier reports, that the so-called variable premiums paid to British sheep farmers would be suspended.

To keep consumer prices down and enable British products to compete with New Zealand imports, Britain obtained agreement from its EEC partners two years ago not to operate an intervention system for lamb. Instead, a

variable premium or subsidy was paid on each animal sent to market, to compensate farmers for the difference between the British market price and the so-called reference price on the Continent, where lamb is much more expensive.

In recent months the subsidy has amounted to as much as farmers have received from the market and its suspension would have had a serious effect.

However, there is still doubt over a further subsidy, the so-called ewe premium, which is a headage payment made twice a year on the number of breeding ewes in each flock. Last year it was £2.73 in England, Scotland

and Wales, but £9.58 in Northern Ireland where variable premiums do not apply.

The present 10-day suspension of export subsidies and of production and storage aid will affect mainly processors and manufacturers, and will have no immediate effect on farmers. But if it were to be extended to the end of the year, it could be a different picture, with a squeeze on margins and falling market prices.

British MEPs including Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative group, yesterday expressed anger over the confusion and the worry it had caused to farmers.

The US has repeatedly made it clear that it will act independently of or in conjunction with its main Western allies to preserve freedom of navigation through the 25-mile wide strait if Iran tries to close it. The US already has the aircraft-carrier *Ranger* and four other naval vessels deployed in the Gulf area and there are at least another 25 US naval vessels in the Indian Ocean.

The US had privately been trying to discourage the French from going ahead with the aircraft deal, arguing that this could provoke the notoriously volatile government of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran into taking drastic measures which could lead to a superpower confrontation in the Gulf.

The French, who have taken pains to keep the supply of the aircraft as secret as possible, responded that their delivery was intended to help restore the military balance in the Gulf where Iraq is losing a war of attrition to the numerically larger forces of Iran.

France, which has huge economic commitments in Iraq (estimated at more than £3,000m), has calculated that if the jets are used as a bargaining chip by Iraq they could hasten the end of the war by proving to Iran that there is nothing to be gained



Thorn of a dilemma: Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the EEC Commission, in Athens yesterday.

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THE ARTS

Television
Nonsense
of values

And now, in *Reilly - Ace of Spies* (Thames), the setting is Petersburg in 1918; we know this because the characters keep on reminding each other of their precise location and period. History here seems to be the sole topic of conversation, and the programme adopts a distant expression when discussing important matters - "We are in the middle of a revolution" - as if already dreaming of their entries in the encyclopedia. "How did Lenin act?" Reilly is asked. "Predictably." But that is unfair on Kenneth Cranham, who is simply the latest in a long line of television Lenins: it is hard to excel, in any case, when your head has been shaved.

Reilly himself is unique: no one has worn so much hair grease, not even in Russia. It glistens in the light, as if a calf's liver has been plastered on to his skull. Unlike his hair, however, Sam Neill has mastered the art of understating. When he talks his lips do not move, and his greatcoat is so heavy that he seems rooted to the spot. Only his eyes have a momentum of their own: they swirl back and forth like snooker balls hit by Mr Steve Davis.

This series has obviously cost a great deal of money to make out, as in *The Winds of War*, which it resembles in so many ways, there is nothing interesting enough remotely to justify the expense involved. Once again, "production values" have triumphed in rooms as lavishly furnished as palaces, and in costumes no doubt accurate to the last detail, all those actors try desperately to breathe life into a plot which itself deserves to be in a museum.

In last night's episode, *Gambit*, Reilly attempts to subvert the Bolshevik government and become head of state - a preposterous scenario that was mercifully obscured by enough nose ends to stock a jumble sale. He would, in any case, have made a most unconvincing leader - "President Sidney Reilly" does not quite have the ring of authority. It seems a pity, however, that such a malevolent man should be turned into a hero: if the series were not inept, it might be distasteful.

Peter Ackroyd

● The eminent Russian film director Andrei Tarkovsky, who is in London to direct *Boris Godunov* at the Royal Opera House, is to lecture on his work at Riverside Studios on Saturday at 8pm.

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Theatre in New York

In need of a dose of
old-time medicine

Considering that the two liveliest events of early autumn were celebrations of things past, the 1983-84 New York theatre season looks barely ambulatory. On September 29 *A Chorus Line* became Broadway's longest-running show, with its 3,389th performance. Michael Bennett resplendently restaged the record-breaking event to include 332 performers who had been in one or more of the show's worldwide companies. Even the occasional euphoria, however, reminded some observers that the innovations of the non-book *Chorus Line* have been stretched thin a decade later and that Broadway's newest sensation, *La Cage aux folles*, is a traditional story musical.

Incoming musicals offer no clues to trends. There are celebrity biographies: Anthony Newley's *Chaplin*, which has been in trouble since its Los Angeles opening, and just acquired a new "consulting director," and Marilyn: *An American Fable*, which is not related to the London musical about Marilyn Monroe and has been blessed by the late star's estate. Peggy Lee has created and will star in her autobiography, *Peg*.

Musicals based on other material include versions of James Baldwin's 1965 play *The Amen Corner* and of Kaufman and Hart's Hollywood comedy *Once in a Lifetime*; an adaptation of Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* with book and lyrics by Joshua Logan; *The Tap Dance Kid*, a musicalized novel with score by the *Dreamgirls* composer Henry Krieger; Gary Trudeau's book and lyrics based on his *Doonesbury* cartoons, with music by Elizabeth Swados; and *Annie, Part II*.

No one knows just how to categorize Peter Brook's *Carmen*, but its staging in the seemingly futuristic Vivian Beaumont theatre at Lincoln Center is bringing out the betting instincts in both camps of Beaumont haters and defenders. About the only

completely original work to be offered upon the musical altar is *Baby*, a show about parenthood by the composing team of David Shire and Richard Maltby. The dreariness of even this partial list is capped by *Nora*, a continuation of *A Doll's House* which has Nora studying art in Paris and reconciling with Torvald, and which blithely ignores last season's disastrous effort of the same kind, *A Doll's Life*. Someone is probably waiting for next season to bring us *Ghost to Heaven*, with Mrs Alving at last finding self-fulfilment on the bary.

The word on straight plays is not too cheery, either. With *Noises Off*, *The Real Thing* and *Beckett's Tenth* to come - the shortest list of British imports in many a year - the first show to cross the Atlantic has been Ben Kingsley's *Keen*. Even if the script helped instead of hindered him, the evening would still be an academic theatre history exercise. Fine character actor and compelling screen presence though he be, Mr Kingsley does not have star-power on stage and, without Keen's "mark of fire" upon his brow, no actor should assume his mantle.

Homegrown original plays have few Broadway berths. Television's Archie Bunker, Carroll O'Connor, will direct and star in *Brothers*, a comedy with a union background. Budd Schulberg is writing *Waterfront*, based upon his union-militant novel that generated the film *On the Waterfront*, and last season's off-Broadway success *Painting Churches* will give the playwright Tina Howe her first mainstream production. If more new dramas or comedies appear, they will probably be from our fringes or regions, where new works by Lanford Wilson, A. R. Gurney, Marsha Norman, Michael Christopher and David Henry Hwang are promised.

The winners will not come from off-Broadway's season openers.



Hired hands in the *Medicine Show*: Randy Lucas (left), "Snuffy" Jenkins, "Pappy" Sherrill, Harold Lucas

Though John B. Keane's *Big Maggie* (Douglas Fairbanks Theatre) is touted as a long-running Dublin hit, one can only surmise that the Irish do not have television soap operas. If they did, *Big Maggie*'s domestic squabbles, scandals and stereotyped characters would bore by comparison. Perhaps the play needs a spirited native cast to excite itself; here it receives a production which seldom even flickers.

There is some sparkle in *Friends at the Billie Holiday Theatre*, but the author, Samm-Art Williams, is unlikely to repeat the success of his 1980 Tony-nominee *Home* unless he decides whether he is writing domestic comedy or farce. The comedy, about a woman who is a giver and wants the people around her to even up the score a little, has promise but not focus. The farce, with the woman's blind husband and blind former lover living in her huge house but unaware of each other until Act II,

when they miss and then succeed in meeting in hilarious slapstick encounters, also has merit but takes an interminable first act to set up.

The one tonic to arrive lately is *The Vi-Ton-Ka Medicine Show*, the very last of its kind to play Manhattan and scheduled only until next Sunday because most of its authentic performers are now too elderly for an open run. The show is in celebration of off-Broadway's American Place Theatre's twentieth anniversary. Because its mandate is producing American plays, the company decided to give a fond farewell to one of the country's three indigenous theatrical forms. Musical comedy survives, but minstrelsy is dead, and so, after this, is the genuine Medicine Show, a form which inspired vaudeville and spawned such performers as Houdini, Buster Keaton and Red Skelton.

As the MC/ventriloquist/cowboy singer/comic Colonel Buster Doss explains, the Medicine Show was the

only entertainment rural America knew for over a century. Its roots show for worse in some painfully corny jokes, but mostly for better in jolly music ranging from Blue Grass and blues lustily sung by the 82-year-old Mary Smith McClain to a tune played on a fifti gun and an anvill chorus duet of organ and bull-whip.

A great delight is Leroy Watts's *Chair Dance*, a soft-shoe routine performed sitting in order to lure customers down front for "Doc" Fred Bloodgood's tonic-selling spiel, delivered so smoothly one longs to be a sucker. The contrast between the "down-home" flavour of the Medicine Show and the sleek sophistication of *A Chorus Line* illustrates the rich variety in New York theatre. They were once novelties, and can give us hope each time the house lights dim this season that we may encounter their successors.

Holly Hill

Womberang/Clients
Croydon Warehouse

Maureen O'Brien, playing the central character in Sue Townsend's double bill, is unrecognizable. I remember her mainly as Nina and Portia and a suspected Victorian poisoner from *Balham*. Here she bursts into Kate Burnett's clinic set as a rat's-tail blonde (dyed) in a caked green eye-shadow, protruding jersey and cheap fur coat, ringing a school handbell to summon attention and stubbing her cigarette in a plant pot.

Her name, necessarily, is Rita and, while the duty gynaecologist takes a boozy siesta, she sets the chairs in a cosy circle, passes round the gin, gets a pregnant girl carried upstairs just in time, attacks two Jehovah's Witnesses peacefully reading *The Watchtower*, reduces the staff to hysterics and encourages a terminally-cancerous granny to do a Spanish dance in her corset with castanet obligato from her false teeth. All this would be funnier if it were more credible - browbeaten by Rita and discovering that the novel is not for sexual intercourse, the bickering pieties have a passionate session in a cubicle and come out mooning romantically - and if Rita's putting of the world to rights were not done by conceitedly contemptuous bullying.



Kathryn Pogson: a grim, twitchy mask

attributed to Liza Goddard in my notice of the Aldwych version.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

LPO/Conlon
Festival Hall

James Conlon is clearly taking a little time to get used to the London Philharmonic Orchestra. For the second of his three concerts with them in London he conducted two works from the standard repertoire, but in neither could he command a really tight discipline from his players; nor did he convincingly stamp any personal view on the music.

In Brahms's Second Piano Concerto he allowed many phrases to remain unshaped. His awkward rhythms gave the Scherzo an uncomfortably lumpy feel, quelling its usual fearlessness, and frequently the spectrum of unity ensemble made one suspect his

ability to beat time with reliable clarity.

This despite an orchestra whose actual sounds - sweet, rich strings, ringing horns and carefully shaped oboe and cello solos - might have led us to expect rather more. In fact only in the finale, interpretatively the least demanding of the movements, did the performance really take wing.

No blame for this could be attached to the soloist, Horacio Gutierrez, whose playing proved that you need to be sensitive as well as energetic to do this physically demanding work fullest justice. His sheer ability to play the right notes was astonishing, but more so was the subtlety of his touch.

Perhaps some weight was missing from the first movement; yet it had depth and

tenacity enough. And, despite Mr Gutierrez's generally romantic approach, a certain detached quality helped to keep us mindful of the work's classical antecedents and of its legacy to younger German composers.

Mr Conlon's task should have been simpler in Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, with no soloist to attend to and a much less stormy emotional ride to negotiate. But his performance was only business-like, with no first movement exposition repeat and with speeds on the brisk side.

I wonder, too, whether he noticed the timpanist, Alan Cumberland, perpetrating a sadly fashionable heresy by decorating his part with portions lifted from the double basses.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre in London

Scream of feminist outrage

Masterpieces

Royal Court Upstairs

After seeing *Ripen Our Darkness* I bestowed some patronizingly masculine compliments on Sarah Daniels as a gifted feminist playwright with much to offer to the general public. But, after her return to Sloane Square last August with *The Devil's Gateway* and now this new piece, I think I got Miss Daniels wrong, as she seems less interested in writing good plays than in staging consciousness-raising scenes.

Masterpieces is a scream of outrage against the pornography trade, seen as directly responsible for rape, sex murder and jokes about women. To put her case, Miss Daniels repeats the pattern of *The Devil's Gateway* and tells another story about a feminist innocent who gets an education in the ways of the world along with a few other ladies. Kathryn Pogson's opening features her gradually comb the men out of their lives and celebrate their liberation with a picnic.

The heroine this time is Rowena, a social worker with a miserably married mother and a schoolteacher sister already an

obsessive porn abolitionist as a result of having committed so much of it. The opening family dinner party sets the tone. Coarse jokes pass between the menfolk, while Rowena sits politely beaming; when her mother attempts a joke, she is at once slapped down by her appalling husband.

The glowing sister, Yvonne, then adds to the merriment. How many men does it take to tile a bathroom? "Three, but you have to slice them thinly." Make the most of that; there are not many laughs to follow.

Hot on the porn trail, Rowena finally receives a full blast of the hard stuff from Yvonne's daily haul. Just how a social worker can have gone about her business in blithe ignorance of flagellation and masturbation appliances is a question Miss Daniels leaves unexamined. Suffice it to say that Rowena has a nasty shock; and Kathryn Pogson's opening features her gradually comb the men out of their lives and celebrate their liberation with a picnic.

All men are beasts. It avails her husband nothing to protest that it was he who first introduced her to *The Female Eunuch*: his

passive compliance with the trade simply places him at one end of the spectrum of male guilt that leads to the director-killer of the "snuff" movie that finally prompts her to push a strange man, who dares to address her, under a passing train.

To her credit, Miss Daniels introduces a trial scene early on, giving you some preparation for this unlikely turn of events. But, with such an easy target as this, most of the creating is subverted with strident overkill. If Rowena's luckless client gets a job, she is bound to lose it through sexual harassment; if a boy commits rape, of course his bedroom is full of back-numbers.

The domestic rows, when Rowena comes into the open, substitute shrieking insult for argument. Patti Love, doubling as Yvonne and the working-class mother, contributes an oasis of humanity in Jules Wright's production; and the selfless William Hoyland offers a no less generous display of unspeakable male stereotypes.

My apologies to Susan Jameson, whose performance as Jo in the Hampstead premiere of *The Hard Shoulder* I wrongly

Sinfonietta/Atherton
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Oliver Messiaen could hardly have hoped for a worthier tribute for his 75th birthday than the London Sinfonietta's mastery performance on Tuesday with David Atherton of his *From the Canyons to the Stars*, written for piano and orchestra between 1971 and 1974 following a trip to Utah.

It was a rich and complete experience, deepened no doubt for many young people in the audience by the orchestra's two preparatory educational projects, sharpened for the rest of us by George Benjamin's lucid and lively pre-concert talk.

The weight of Messiaen's three composing years and the performance's two hours were

seldom apparent in this, the second of two presentations in a year, textures were refined, voicing was purified, rhythms and resonances were super-precise. Compared with the composer's massive opera *Saint-François d'Assise*, planned for Paris this November, the forces are modest: the spectrum of bird-song, colour, earth, air and sea sounds is suspended in a rare, almost perfect equipoise between sound and silence, action and meditation.

The busy-ness, the dispersal of what Messiaen has called "the surfact of energy" of "Cedar Breaks", for instance, is juxtaposed with the extraordinary horn solo of "Interstellar Call". Here, Philip Eastop found, with Messiaen, the strange primitivism that comes from a fusion of imaginative

imitation with a calling forth of the instrument's own "inscape".

With soloists like Paul Crossley (piano), James Holland (xyloimba) and David Johnson (glockenspiel), with the miracle of the earth-echoing geophone, and with a palette of percussive wind, whistling strings and liquid percussion, it is tempting to hear and write only of timbres.

But what quickens the work's spirit is its affirmation of rhythm, its joy, too, in melody; and above all the sense of the sanctity of sound's existence in time, epitomized in Messiaen's transmutation of the call of the wood thrush into a perfect aural embodiment of the concept of naming, and of the individuation of creation.

Hilary Finch

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The Times profile:
Radio 3

At the height of the most exciting one-day cricket match between England and New Zealand last month, Radio 3, relaying the cricket as it does every year turned over as planned to a live broadcast of *Faust* from Covent Garden. Just before the switch at 7pm, Ian McIntyre, controller of Radio 3, was asked to hold the opera and let the cricket, now reaching a peak of tension, run on. He refused, feeling that the preferences of Radio 3's music listeners called for adherence to the schedules. Next morning, 300 abusive telephone calls and dozens of letters of complaint reached Broadcasting House.

All institutions as venerated as Radio 3 attract opprobrium as intense as this in its hostility. For nearly 40 years, two generations of British listeners have developed a devoted allegiance to their unique cultural station, and when things seem out of place, an implacable fury. Ruffled feelings are commonplace.

Nevertheless the network today appears to be in a state of unusual embattlement, with producers fretting over censorship and control, contributors worrying about their future, and listeners complaining that Radio 3 is no longer, as it once was, meeting their particular tastes. For some it has become too prissy, a little conservative; for others, too avant garde; for others again, too chatty. Is it all the nature of the beast, or has Radio 3 fallen on fractious times?

Radio 3 - or the Third Programme as it began life - was the child of Sir William Haley, director general of the BBC immediately after the war. He dreamt of founding a network that would have no fixed time points, so that plays, operas and features could run their course regardless of Big Ben, and, more importantly, with no regard for popularity.

At the end of September 1946, the Third Programme came on the air. *The Times* welcomed its arrival as a "powerful newcomer among the agents of enlightened democracy". And for the most part the Third Programme did precisely what it had set out to do.

Those early years, in the minds and memories of a whole school of listeners, were charmed ones, and they lasted well into the 1960s. Philip French, a producer of talks and documentaries, recalls: "When I started everyone at a department meeting was a poet, a playwright, or a biographer. They wore three-piece suits and bowler hats. When someone was mentioned as a possible speaker, someone else would be bound to ask: 'But has he got a Third Programme mind?'" In those days, no one worried about whether or not there was an audience: excellence was enough.

Still, the Third Programme had its critics, particularly among the "anti-highbrows", both inside Broadcasting House and out. There were complaints about the plummy accents of the presenters, with their ineffable superiority and their Latin and Greek tags, and about the unattractive elitism of putting on programmes no one could understand.

It was under P H Newby, a reserved and patient former talks producer (later winner of the first Booker Prize), that the question of change became more serious. In 1968 Gerry Mansell, a former controller of Radio 4 and the Music Programme, was seconded to redesign and restructure the entire volume of BBC's radio output, which was felt by the board to have fallen into a state of overlap and untidiness. *Broadcasting in the Seventies* called for a "realignment" of the network that had by now been renamed Radio 3 realigned with Radio 4, leaving 3 with

about 100 hours of serious music each week but only eight of speech.

When plans for the new streamlined service were announced, one hundred and thirty four radio producers wrote to *The Times* protesting that the glory of the old network was finally gone and that the Philistines had triumphed.

Nonetheless, the changes went ahead. And when listeners and producers paused to consider they found that nothing fundamental had actually changed. A cultural ghetto had not in fact been created.

"The Third Programme is dead: long live the Third Programme" P. H. Newby exclaimed, before being succeeded as controller by Stephen Hearst, an exuberant and mercurial Viennese once described as a "benevolent earthquake", who came to Radio 3 from television and never quite managed to shake off the snobbish reproach all founding fathers of radio feel for television. "I was thought to be a barbarian", Hearst says.

He presided over a period of relative tranquillity, but agonized over the morality of making the poor (who listened to Radio 1 and 2) subsidize the arcane pleasures of the rich. He worried about the balance between music and talk and asked himself whether it was right to run a network that most of the British public could neither understand nor wanted to hear.

Radio 3, as inherited by its sixth controller, Ian McIntyre, in November 1978 was the same byzantine, introverted institution - as one producer describes it - it has always been. McIntyre arrived at Radio 3 bloodied by an unhappy and controversial period as controller of Radio 4. He was a figure very unlike the restrained *laissez faire* personalities who had preceded him. A former Conservative candidate with fluent French, Russian and Norwegian, (he is married to a Norwegian) he is described by colleagues as a formidable debater with nerves of steel, a man who is clear-headed and who has never been seen to lose his temper. "He's intellectually fearless", but he's also a bit of a prig when it comes to language, one of them says.

After 32 years in which producers had done pretty well what they wished to do, McIntyre intended to be involved. His regular and apparently tough meetings with producers, editors and heads of departments, at which past programmes are analyzed and future ones minutely dissected, are not popular with everyone.

There was not very much to be done about music, the 5,000 hours a year of which is the backbone of the network. "Music is a great machine that trundles on". The trundling has been and continues for many listeners to be the glory and justification of the network, with its 120 or so operas a year, 30 of them live relays, its "Composer of the Week" and its orchestral symphonies, even though critics grumble that there is too much modern music in the early mornings and that increasingly no one can find the music he wants at the times he wants it.

But a war about words was on. Ian McIntyre, who had come from current affairs, cared more than his predecessors about words.

In some ways, he has done no more than push a little faster along the lines written by Newby and Hearst: he has given great emphasis both to the clarity of presentation of programmes and to the spoken material which has been creeping steadily back on to the network over the last ten years.

"There seemed to be a feeling once of anything goes on Radio 3," Ian McIntyre says. "The network was



The Radio 3 team: from left to right, Tom Crowe, Tony Scotland, Elaine Padmore, John Holmstrom, Cormac Rigby, Donald Macleod, Patricia Hughes, Peter Barker, Malcolm Rathvén, Donald Price and Ray Williamson.

Still holding its audience

The BBC's Third Programme came on the air at 8pm on September 29, 1946, with five to six hours a day at its disposal in which to lead the public into new, unexplored paths in music, speech and drama. In time, it absorbed the daytime music programme, a study session and sports, was rechristened Radio 3, and "realigned" with Radio 4, having been allocated 100 hours a week of serious music and only eight of speech.

Structurally, Radio 3 is a confusing, overlapping entity, with at its head a controller and underneath him one editor for Music and a presenter's Editor. There are 12 presenters. Radio

3 draws its programmes from some 100 producers belonging to four separate departments: Radio 3 Music; Drama; Talks and Documentaries; Outside Broadcasting and Sport.

In 1981/82 the BBC spent £132m on its radio networks, including local and regional radio, of which roughly half went on overheads and half on production costs. Of these, Radio 3 swallowed £22m (excluding the cost of transmitter and distribution), or 17 per cent. Radio 1 £12m (9 per cent), Radio 2 £25m (19 per cent) and Radio 4 £25m (22 per cent).

During that period, Radio 3

put out 4,824 hours of music, 445 of current affairs, 206 of news, 141 of drama, 429 of sport and six of light entertainment.

Of BBC's four radio networks, Radio 3 is alone in not having lost substantial numbers of listeners in the last decade. Radio 1's share of the average audience of the United Kingdom population over the age of five dropped from 5 per cent in the first quarter of 1972 to 2.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1982. Radio 2 from 2.5 per cent to 1.3 per cent and Radio 4 from 1.5 per cent to 0.9 per cent. Radio 3 remained unchanged at 0.1 per cent.

regarded as a musical network, and speech as a high-class Polyfilla. The tone of voice is important. I had the impression the voice was not right: not that it was too formal, but a bit uninviting. It sounded as if we were offering a conducted tour of Harrods' furniture repository: a slight feeling that everything was covered in dust sheets. It is no use being brilliant and boring. What I call a bit *troisième*. In the old days, provided he was an expert it was fine to have a contributor with a cleft palate and no grasp of the English language. Cleft palates are out. So are thick Albanian accents."

This harder look at the spoken word has not always provoked dispute, particularly as it has been accompanied by a real desire by Ian McIntyre's to promote attractive and

informative documentaries. The small science team in particular appears to be going through a period of renaissance, with items sometimes well in advance of those that appear in comparative scientific magazines.

And it has not disturbed the presenters, the elite "disc jockeys" of Radio 3, whose fans are as addicted to their tongue-in-cheek idiosyncrasies as are the devotees of those at the pop stations.

"It's far livelier, the stuffiness and stiffness has gone," says Tom Crowe, the presenter whose asides and absent-minded interjections (there was a day when he murmured "how repulsive", when reading a news story about a dead whale whose stomach had exploded, covering the beach in rotten blubber), have earned him a devoted

following. "The voices themselves have changed: now you just have to sound educated."

But the department where Ian McIntyre's mood of accountability has encountered most opposition is that of drama. In its heyday in the 1950s and early 1960s, drama was considered one of the Third Programme's prize offerings. People like John Tydemann, a genial, bearded figure now deputy head of drama, were drawn to the BBC by the sheer range and quantity of what could be done in drama in the course of a year. "It was an amazing time," he says. "A wave of playwrights of Pinter's generation did their first work for Radio 3. There was then no National Theatre, no modern plays at the RSC, no television, and the Lord Chancellor exercised a solid censorship on the stage. Robert Bolt, Peter Schaffer, John Mortimer all wrote for us. By the end of the 1960s all that had changed. The new playwrights went elsewhere. Only a few people of that early breed, like Tom Stoppard, still write for radio."

Other drama producers are less philosophical. "Things go in periods," said one. "There are moments of apparent freedom, then ones of withdrawal."

It all used to be so exciting, one producer said mournfully. "Not just in drama, but everywhere. The spirit of adventure has died." He quoted as example the demise of *Sounds Interesting*, the popular music run by Derek Jewell for seven years. "There is now a fear of the uncontrollable," he added. "What the network suffers most from today is introversion, lack of proper outside criticism and too much internal interference. We are now getting only a shabby, gentled version of the splendour of the past."

Contributors complain that for the first time in their lives they are being castigated for not being "intellectual enough". "Every contributor is fearful of being critical," said one man who has written for Radio 3 for over 10 years. "Radio has a long and vengeful memory. It's extremely Russian in that way. It's all too easy to become a non-person."

The network itself is, however, healthy. While the other three BBC stations have lost listeners steadily over the last 15 years, Radio 3 thrives. True, figures for listeners are almost impossible to measure with any degree of accuracy, but those available suggest that about 600,000 people a day tune in to Radio 3.

And McIntyre's decision to give Radio 3's twice weekly plays a "proper, theatre-going" hour, rather than slotting them in at random after the end of a musical production has paid off handsomely; the number of his listeners has trebled.

Nevertheless, Radio 3 remains the envy of the world: broadcasters point out that nowhere, not even on France Musique, is the same range and quality of service available. For all the carping that Radio 3 is a "governess" service with pleasant music allowed only after a wholesome dose of education, spoken or played, there is something dogged, if rather smug, about the loyalty of the regular corps of listeners. The changes they call for are cosmetic, not radical - less avant garde music perhaps, more coherence in planning the music programmes.

The fact that Radio, for all its years of democratization, remains one of the most formal in the Western world is not disliked. If public service broadcasting is vulnerable, as it must be as in the days of cutbacks and cable then Radio 3 appears to be the least vulnerable network of all. "It would have to be pretty funny government and a pretty funny board of governors" that ever dared to touch us," one member of the Radio 3 team declared.

Caroline Moorehead

moreover...
Miles Kington

War games
in no
man's land

Mills and Bang - the imprint that appeals to men and women. Yes, our list of new novels which combine military daring and mad romance, battle orders and *billets-doux*, has proved a runaway success this summer. Here to greet autumn is another handful of unforgettable yarns that combine the daring of men with the love of women.

Passion on Parade by Samantha Browne. It was halfway through the Great War, and the General Staff were in a quandary. They feared the Germans a bit. They feared their French allies quite a lot. But above all they feared Captain Drusilla Salmon.

"No man's land?" she had cried, when she first arrived. "No woman's land, more like. If a woman had been in charge of this place, it wouldn't be in this kind of a mess."

She had a point, the General Staff privately admitted. The area between the German and the British lines had not been well maintained and could do with a bit of a wash and a brush-up. But they weren't prepared for Captain Salmon to organize a series of squads to go out at night and completely reorganize no man's land. Craters were filled in, barbed wire cleared away, the whole area re-seeded, until it looked not unlike one of the better municipal parks in Cheltenham.

"Trouble is, we're meant to be fighting a war, not redecorating France," said the General Staff, and they sent their youngest member, Colonel Chambers, to talk to her. "My darling," said Colonel Chambers, for he already knew her better than the General Staff suspected, "we are very grateful for all your housework, as it were. But tomorrow night there is to be a general advance, so keep your squads well clear."

"There will be no advance over my no man's land," thundered Drusilla. God, how well Khaki suited her hair, thought Chambers. "Tomorrow night my men are putting out white benches and starting on a nine hole pitch 'n' putt course. That's final."

Will the British Army advance? Will Colonel Chambers win her over? Will Captain Salmon be tempted to tip off the Germans in order to prevent the advance? A nail-biting story.

Beneath a Far Flag by Rusta Lahbi. When Knut, a corporal in the Danish Army, is sent out to the Middle East as part of a UN peace-keeping contingent, he thinks of it as just another chance to get a sun-tan. When Lala, a nurse with the Indian peace-keeping contingent, is sent to the Middle East - which she quite understandably thinks of as the Middle West - she sees it as part of her mission to heal, as she has a sun-tan already. But a chance meeting in a wine bar inflames them both with passion.

"When this terrible peace is over," says Knut, "I will come back to your tepees and live with you."

"I think you are thinking of Red Indians," explains Lala. "I am the other kind, from India."

While Knut is working this out, Lala meets Jean-Louis, a sergeant with the French peace-keeping force and the only man she has ever met who can successfully explain structuralism to her. Torn between the blonde Nordic beauty of Knut and the fiercely honest mind of Jean-Louis, she thinks of committing suicide by walking down the main street of Beirut. Then she has a better idea: she will get Knut and Jean-Louis to fight a duel.

Before the duel can take place, however, she meets Louise, a radical feminist with the CIA murder squad attached to the American peace mission, who persuades Lala that she is only acting out a stereotypical role wished upon her by Jean-Louis and Knut. They decide to run away together. Unfortunately, the night before the elopement Lala meets an Italian translator called Danilo, a rather effeminate wimp attached to the Red Cross and she is seized by an uncontrollable urge to mend his socks. Just finishing the last pair at dawn, she sees from the window Knut and Jean-Louis marching out for their duel.

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ARROW SCIENCE FICTION

A question
of taste

In spite of John the Baptist's example of living on locusts and wild honey, the idea of eating insects has never caught on. Yet there is no doubt that many of them are as nutritious as much of the food we do eat. One problem is collecting together enough insects to make a meal. This does not apply in the case of the silkworm.

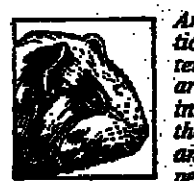
China produces about 300,000 tonnes a year of silkworm cocoons. Only half this weight is silk. The remaining 150,000 tonnes of unwanted insect body is discarded. The chrysalides contain about 50 per cent fat, but once this has been removed the remaining material is about 80 per cent protein. Further, it is better quality protein than that obtained from many vegetables. Unfortunately,

silkworms are a tasty bite themselves, it tastes and smells unpalatable.

Now a group of scientists from Scandinavia and China has developed a relatively simple washing process which removes the unpleasant taste and odour, yet loses less than 10 per cent of the protein. Because of the balance of amino

acids, it could be used as a valuable supplement for vegetable protein in human diets.

Guinea rich



Another unconventional source of protein which has been arousing scientific interest recently is the guinea pig. This animal, a common pet in the western world, is a native of South America, where it has been used as a meat animal for centuries. In Bolivia and Peru, guinea pigs are still a source of meat in rural communities. Cultivation of the guinea pig has been on a similar basis to the tending of domesticated animals in feudal Europe: the animals are treated as members of the household and often live under their owner's bed.

However, it has now been suggested that guinea pigs might be farmed intensively. One advantage is that they will eat almost anything and will convert it efficiently into meat. Secondly, they are prolific, producing up to five litters a year.

Guinea pig pilot farms, in which the animals are kept in concrete pens, have been developed in Peru. However, it would also be possible to keep them in cheaper units, built of adobe. There they could be fed on green vegetables for about three months after weaning. In order to reach a marketable weight. At the end of this period, the carcass weight is about three quarters of a pound.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: FOOD SCIENCE

Perfect mash

What makes perfect mashed potato? If the advertisements are to be believed, it is powder from a packet. But this doesn't answer the question properly. Recently, scientists at the Food Research Institute in Norwich have been looking at "home made" mash, to see whether the type of potato used plays a significant part.

They checked mashed potato made with different varieties grown at several sites, using different physical tests and correlating these with sensory qualities - moistness, moisture and structure (course or smooth). The most important factor turned out to be the dry matter weight of the potato, that is the percentage of solids which it contained. This, in turn, depended much less on where it came from. Different varieties grown at a single site could not be differentiated by the sensory panel, but the further north the potatoes were grown, the smoother the resultant mash.

Nature's 'cures'

In recent years, literally thousands of different substances have been identified as potential carcinogens. Part of the reason for this "explosion" has been the development of simple tests which check whether substances cause mutations in bacteria and other simple life-forms, and the belief that mutagenicity and carcinogenicity are

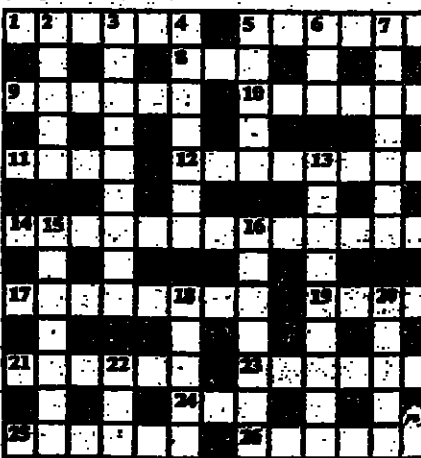
linked. One of the most famous of these tests is the Ames test, named after its developer, University of California biologist Bruce Ames.

Recently Ames has turned his attention to a question which has cast doubt on the validity of the mutagen-carcinogen correlation. That is, if so many substances are carcinogenic, why is cancer not far more prevalent than it actually is? For the Ames and similar tests have not drawn attention only to possible carcinogens among synthetic chemicals. They have found suspect substances in almost every foodstuff.

Coffee, for example, may contain carcinogens: derived from burnt material formed during roasting. It also contains a natural mutagen called chlorogenic acid and, of course, caffeine, which can interfere with molecular repair mechanisms. In a recent scientific paper, Ames has listed natural mutagens in pepper, mushrooms, celery, figs, potatoes and broad beans, to name but a few. He points out that many of these substances may have developed during evolution as natural pesticides to protect the plants from insects and fungal predators.

It is believed that many of the carcinogens, if they cause cancer, do so by causing the production of a hyperactive form of oxygen. The anticarcinogens, on the other hand, mop this up and prevent it from damaging living cells. Among the anticarcinogens identified by Ames are vitamins C and E, selenium and carotene. He suggests that, rather than being too concerned about eliminating carcinogens from our diet - clearly impossible if there are so many of them - we should concentrate on ensuring an adequate supply of anticarcinogens.

Martin Sherwood

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 174)

ACROSS

- Body stagnation (6)
- With hands on hip (6)
- Phone (3)
- Fee schedule (6)
- Well-opening (4)
- Arduous task (8)
- Maddened Biblical pigs (8,5)
- Unnirritous nonchance (4,4)
- Riding horse (6)
- Afternoon nap (6)
- Actor's union (6)
- Crisp lettuce (3)
- Curative agent (6)
- Foam (6)

DOWN

- Extravascular activity (5,4)
- Colliers (7)
- Communion table (5)
- Int vehicle number (1,1,1)
- Foolish person (7)
- Urban residence (9)
- Insulating (7)
- Infinite (7)
- Speech ability (5)
- Cup (5)
- Supplicate (3)

SOLUTION TO No 173

ACROSS: 1 Cassis 4 Suffer 7 Dash 8 Xylocarp 9 Cut price 12 Des 15 Hittman 16 Awoide 17 Ash 19 Dandruff 24 Sub story 25 Dalt 26 Sheriff 27 Nelson

DOWN: 1 Code 2 Saquinaz 3 Sizer 4 Solie 5 Fact 6 Error 10 Plaid 11 Ewer 12 Drip 13 Sals 14 Rher 18 Stosh 20 Aloof 21 Dopes 22 USSS 23 Zlon

BOOKS

The Boss as PM

Margaret Thatcher
Wife, Mother, Politician
By Penny Junor
(Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95)

The star scene in this brief, quite intelligent account of the domestic life of our first female Prime Minister concerns Mrs Thatcher and some undebated potatoes she served for Sunday supper after a meeting of her staff at No 10. She is no diploma performer in the kitchen, and the potatoes were as hard as rocks. Her minions, somewhat cowed by the occasion, realizing that this was not a chef one should complain to, went on desperately chewing until she herself discovered the potatoes were uneatable. At which point, she cheer them up by offering them chicken or a beautiful beef stroganoff next time they came to supper? If that is your assumption you do not know your Prime Minister. She promised them some better baked potatoes the next week.

Whence Mrs Thatcher's legendary fixity of purpose? A book of this scope - a 200-word race through the family anecdotes with distant thunder signifying politics and power - is hardly likely to provide the total answer to a mystery which civilization as a whole finds pretty baffling. But Penny Junor makes a very reasonable shot at it, describing rather well the uncompromising outlook encouraged by Margaret's strict upbringing in Grantham, the details of which, down to the last side of bacon and the cheapest tin of biscuits in her father's corner shop will already be familiar to connoisseurs of the childhoods of the famous. I should like to have heard more of Margaret's maternal grandmother, a Dickensian kind of character who lived with the family throughout her early childhood and whose compulsive mothering pro industry and cleanliness obviously fell on anything but stony ground.

What is fascinating is the early age at which it struck the future Mrs Thatcher that the things which women like to do in little gaggles - gossip, giggle, compare hair styles, become one another's bridesmaids, leave the men at dinner parties - were not things she enjoyed; nor were they things which she

was good at. Some of us, when such truths strike us, despondently embark on writing long and complex novels. Another of the options is to make oneself Prime Minister, the most devastating way of saying: "Well, to hell with that."

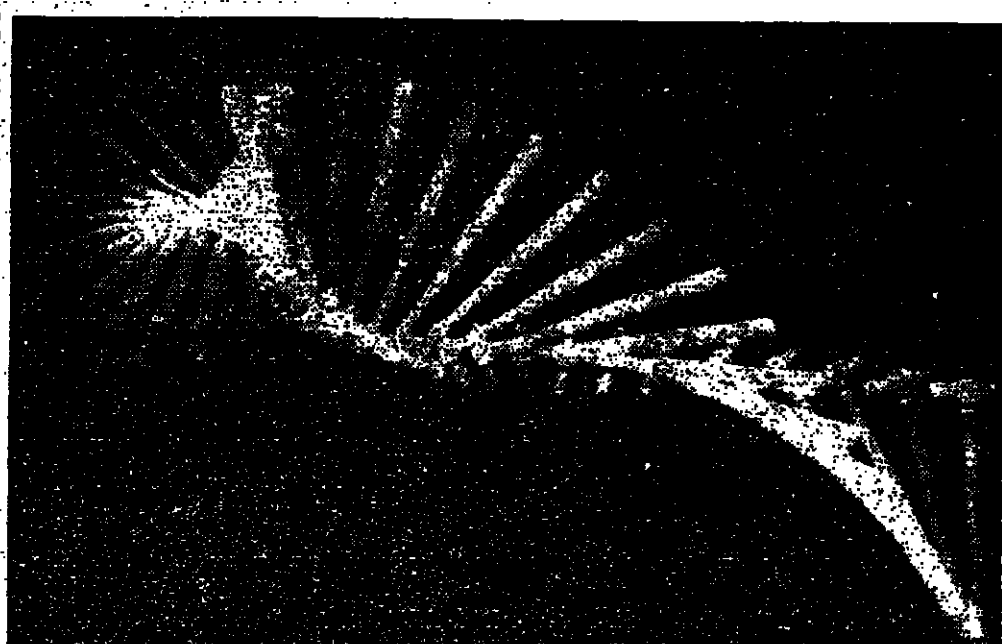
There have indeed been dinner parties at which Mrs Thatcher has gone out with the ladies leaving her wife pontificating at the table. Mrs Thatcher as a wife has broken the rules ruthlessly. (How lovely to discover that in real life as in *Private Eye* she is "The Boss" to Denis.) She has by no means filled the role of the conventional mother, having seldom had the time to spare for playing Snakes and Ladders.

How on earth has Mrs Thatcher ever got away with it? How has she sustained such a remarkably unorthodox interpretation of the role of wife and mother, a concept of freedom beyond the wildest dreams of most female British citizens, within the daunting context of her own position as leader of a Cabinet of men who, if not absolute male chauvinists give one the impression of expecting a cleanly laundered shirt put out each morning, and b) as protagonist of a party policy strong on the upholding of traditional values and the sanctity of family?

This book is very pertinent in its analysis of Mrs Thatcher's dual personality. In the house her attributes seem predominantly masculine: firm and unemotional. With her ministers she shows more female wiles, more sexuality, favouring relationships which border on flirtation. If one of her admirers can really be believed, Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet is a kind of wish fulfillment: Norman Tebbit in the role of her long lost ideal husband, Cecil Parkinson "the son she wished she'd had".

Mrs Thatcher obviously has a menage sense of humour. A great part of her success is the absolute conviction with which she binds together her male and female roles. Penny Junor castigates her for her missing sense of humour. But she is wrong to do so. Her solemnity is crucial. Take that gravity away and the Prime Minister collapses. A funny Mrs Thatcher is a terrifying thought.

Fiona MacCarthy



The flying hammer. High-speed strobeoscopic lighting has created a dinosaur's rib-cage out of a ball peen hammer in flight. From *Split Second, The World of High-Speed Photography*, by Stephen Dalton (Dent, £10.95)

On losing one's marbles

Loot
By Russell Chamberlin
(Thames & Hudson, £8.95)

This well-written, well-researched and well-illustrated book is about something that has gone on from time immemorial - the simple greed of human nature expressing itself by the stealing of other people's treasures. The subtitle of the book is "Other heritage plunder", and it is concerned with what the French, who still proudly display the Venus de Milo and the Victory of Samothrace in what was the Musée Napoleon and is now the Louvre, call *l'eglisme* - "the retention by richer nations of the cultural treasures of poorer nations, usually obtained under duress".

Chamberlin begins with the marbles of Greece and quotes the wise words of Adolf Michaelis: "only blind passion could doubt that Lord Elgin's act was an act of preservation", and so it was, a splendid and brilliant act. In 1924 a hundred years after Byron's death at Missolonghi the philhellene diplomat, Harold Nicolson went personally to see Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald and made an impassioned plea

for the marbles to be returned as a fitting gesture to mark the centenary. Ramsay, unaccountably, did not respond warmly to such a plea on behalf of a small and poor nation. The Greeks now plead again, but it looks as though the British Government, advised by the Director and Trustees of the British Museum, are Ramsay-macmen.

They are surely misguided. We should return to their countries of origin the major, important and emotive objects that we have collected and stolen from the Mediterranean, Africa and Asia. The Elgin marbles should go back to Greece if a proper museum is provided for them; we should return the Rosetta stone to Egypt and it should be displayed in the entrance of a renovated Cairo Museum along side the bust of Nefertiti returned by the Germans. The great museums of Europe and America should retain their representative collections of the art and artefacts of the world but give back the five-star objects which are our common patrimony. These are my views. Chamberlin does not give his views on the return of cultural property, and his book is the poorer for this.

Everyone should read this

book and ponder the issues involved. It is a series of ten essays and not a complete history of the looting of art treasures such as Karl Meyer attempted in his *The Plundered Past* and Francis Taylor in his *The Taste of Angels*. The voyages of the four bronze horses of San Marco bear constant re-telling and the parade of Napoleonic loot in the Champ de Mars on 27 July 1978 seems, these days, almost unbelievable. But I put the book down wanting more information: where is Schliemann's alleged "Treasure of Priam," and where the Treasure of Dorak - if it ever existed?

Sometimes loot is arranged by proper or improper purchase. The sale rooms of Bond Street and Madison Avenue are full of genuine antiquities dubiously obtained. It is worth remembering that in 1898 Sir Edward Antrobus offered to sell to the British nation Stonehenge for £125,000; it was eventually bought by Cecil Chubb in 1913 for £6,600. What if, in 1898, it had been bought by some organization like Britain and Bailey and we had not been able to prevent its removal to America? Would we now, Mercuri-Wise, be asking America to give us back our stones.

Glyn Daniel

Weimar at the opera

Otto Klemperer
His Life and Times, Volume 1, 1885-1933
By Peter Heyworth
(Cambridge, £15)

Otto Klemperer's reputation in Britain rests on the London concert appearances and recordings he made for Walter Legge at Columbia and EMI during the last 20 years of his life. The Klemperer of Peter Heyworth's scholarly first volume of biography is the ardent disciple of Mahler, and radical director of various German opera houses, supremely the Kroll in Berlin which from 1928 to 1932 under his direction earned itself a unique place in the history of the form. This Klemperer emerges as a cross between *rogue*-elephant, Lucifer and God.

Born in Breslau in 1885, Klemperer was a manic depressive Jew of abnormal height, who turned Catholic not, like Mahler, for professional reasons, but because he found Christianity intellectually attractive. When manic, he conducted *Tannhäuser* with his feet on the desk, composed, organized and compelled lyric sopranos to tackle unsuitable roles at his command. In depression, he tore up his works, and disappeared into sanatoria for weeks or months on end, restoring his calm and studying scores. As an artist, Heyworth points out, he stood between two worlds: he was both Mahlerian expressionist and Stravinskian neo-classicist, earning the warm admiration of Trotsky in Moscow and of Oberbürgermeister Adenauer in Cologne.

Music critics are not noted for an expressive grasp of political realities - in this country, they generally do not need one - so the first thing to welcome in *Otto Klemperer* is Peter Heyworth's wide reading and comprehension of political developments in Germany and Soviet Russia between the Bolshevik Revolution and the advent of the Third Reich. I am not yet convinced that more than 200 pages are required to write about Klemperer's early years in Hamburg, Prague, Wiesbaden and Cologne before he arrived at the Kroll, although this may become clear when the second volume appears and the structure of the whole is

revealed, but the great interest in this first volume lies in the pocket history of the Kroll it contained which, at 150 pages, is by far the fullest to appear in English to date. It fills a significant gap in our knowledge of Weimar Berlin.

A political understanding is central to the Kroll, which was entirely a political creation (1924, though effectively only from Klemperer's arrival in '28) and died a political death (1932). The Kroll was an SPD initiative designed to provide opera for the working and lower middle class supporters of the Republic as the historic house on Unter den Linden had provided for court, military and bourgeois society before the First World War. The bulk of its

and *Périchole* - in the hectic hour preceding its death. (Three of them, be it noted, without Klemperer's Olympian hand.) All this took place at the time when Lilian Baylis was moving heaven and earth to achieve many of the Kroll Opera's aims with no one to help her but God and Emma Cons. If the circumstances surrounding the fall of the Kroll begin to sound more familiar today than they would have done to The Lady that is because we now have *Kulturpolitik* 100. As the GLC sets off bravely on another long march for the great audience which neither Dr Klemperer, Miss Baylis or Comrade Brecht ever found, and it is proposed that two of our four national companies should be "rescued" from intractable unprofitability by being taken over by the Government itself, the permitted death of a four year old opera company half a century ago becomes of the greatest relevance and interest.

Besides, we owe the Kroll a good deal. Heyworth makes it clear for the first time both how limited its real achievements were - only half a dozen productions realized its ideals of music theatre to the full and Klemperer's own views on production were as ambivalent as his attitudes to contemporary music and design - and how central its example has been in the age when opera has ceased to be a creative and become primarily an interpretative art. (And this, too, when the number of great singing interpreters has dramatically declined.)

Without the Kroll's *Flying Dutchman*, Wieland Wagner declared, there would have been no New Bayreuth; without the green memory of the Kroll there would have been no Komische Oper in wrecked Berlin after the war, which means that companies like the Welsh and English National might not be the flourishing centres of music theatre - sometimes putting the National and the RSC in the shade - that they are today. It is an important and enthralling story and, apart from a disruptive fondness for interesting footnotes, and a surprisingly mean habit for playing down the achievements of Klemperer's rivals like Erich Kleiber which does his protagonist no good, Mr Heyworth tells it very well.

Michael Ratcliffe



Klemperer. Woodcut by Ewald Dülberg, 1917.

audience was to come from the Volksbühne which was neither the first nor last subscription-body to discover that its subscribers, even when voting Socialist, Communist or not voting at all, retained conservative tastes in the performing arts. They did not want Schoenberg's *Vom Heute auf Morgen* or Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* or even *Lulu*, they wanted *Carmen*, *Traviata* and *Bohème*. Hans Curjel, described by Heyworth as the Kroll's ideological mainspring, believed that "art and society are now sweeping to a new synthesis". As they were not, except in the minds of cultural ideologues like Curjel, Josef Goebbels and Bert Brecht, and as support for the Nazis and the SPD respectively waxed and waned, so the mathematics of coalition added up against the Kroll in the committees of patronage and power. In true Weimar style the Kroll produced its most sustained sequence of brilliant work - *Figaro*, *Louise*, *Butterfly*

Fiction

Bags of giddyap boyo

Leila
By J. P. Donleavy
(Allen Lane, £8.95)

Time after Time
By Molly Keane
(André Deutsch, £7.95)

There is a marvellous passage in *Leila* when the Mental Marquis of Farnham is mistakenly given gravy on his ice-cream instead of chocolate sauce. Farnham - a man who salutes corks off champagne bottles and sits after dinner in his London club with baron's knickers on his head - asks for the recipe. Donleavy himself is a pastmaster at dishing up the same old stuff and trying to pass it off as something new. A lot of him has gone a little way, and this sequel to *The Destinies of Darcy Dancer*, *Gentleman* explores an all too familiar territory. The shy and elegant Darcy takes the squealing train from Dublin to the healthy boglands of his home, Andromeda Park is in a state of crumbling dilapidation. Uncaring of the chronic leaks,

Darcy is bewitched by Leila, a raven-haired addition to his staff. A weak, insubstantial creation, Leila professes love one moment and the next marries the Mental Marquis. Out of his mind with lust, Darcy finds solace in the arms and feinting legs of fox-hunting madams. No shortage of giddyap boyo in this novel, except with his hollow content, Leila.

As ever, Donleavy writes extremely well, combining Celtic sadness with Pripriean reverie. Just a pity he doesn't put a full stop to some of his more unpunctuated excesses - and like the Mental Marquis's father "hang up his old testicles to dry".

Among the guests at one of Darcy's meagre are some spinster sisters whose celibacy totals more than 300 years. They could easily be the Swift sisters from the Durrageless estate. With a mischievous glint in her eye, Molly Keane has forced them to live together with their brother, as Mumme intended, in a damp decaying house which is no more than an extended play-pen. Jasper occupies himself with cooking; April stays upstairs nipping vodka and changing into beautiful clothes; May takes the one car off to her floral club, while at 64, Baby June tends the firm and its farrowing sow. Named after the months, the sisters have changed little during them. Preserving the same secrets and memories, they have hardly grown up. (This stunted growth has outward signs. June is illiterate; April deaf as an adder; May has a sunken eye.) Suddenly the focus of these memories turned up like a bad penny. Once glamorous Leila, the only intruder into their childhood, is now blind and fat - but just as vicious. After everyone has strangled over her like a favourite doll, Leila spills their secrets and out of the cupboard gushes the camphoric past.

Molly Leape has lost none of her wicked touch. She is as precise in pin-pricking character - "her body might have been voluptuous if it had 'ever been desired'" - as she is in describing the land and its creatures - newborn piglets, for instance, "pink as the inside of wet sea shells". In a sense she writes in such a monotonously beautiful way that much more needs to happen. By the end I felt I had watched a swan crane its neck to leave the water, but never quite taking off.

In *Kate's House* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95), Harriet Waugh has written a cruelly funny story about a vindictive four-year old girl who makes her doll's house into "a Pakistani house with one lavatory". As Kate plays, God with her dolls, so a real house fills up with people who seem, simultaneously, to be creatures of her imagination. When Kate decides her toy house needs a baby, Margery in 123 St Luke's Road becomes pregnant. Not having had sex for a year, she believes her child, who is christened Katherine, to be the Second Coming. On the day of the Royal Wedding Katherine is eaten by a scabbed poodle. A good novel in awful taste, this is Harriet Waugh's best yet.

Londoners (Methuen, £7.95) reads less like a novel than an autobiographical revelation of what it's like to make a living as a writer in Ears Court. As fact - a much more satisfying term than fiction - it fails because Matthew Duffy wears her art on her sleeve and infests London's predatory underworld with allusions to literature and the literary life. It is all echo and no voice, apart from Al, the androgynous narrator, who is a kind of philosopher-in-residence for Ears Court, with an Arts Council grant for shabbiness.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Famous novels between hardish covers for £5

A hardback novel costs about the same as a bottle of whisky; as it did ten, 20, and 50 years ago. And the pleasure is less ephemeral. This does not stop the whingeing and thirsty classes from complaining about the price of novels. To compete with trade paperback competition, library cuts, and the discount, Heinemann today reinvents the hardback by introducing a new format called Landmark. The first eight titles of famous literary works of the twentieth century are: *Death in Venice* and *Other Stories*, by Thomas Mann; *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck; *A Town Like Alice*, by Nevill Shute; *Brighton Rock*, by Graham Greene; *Sons and Lovers*, by D. H. Lawrence; *The Trial* and *Metamorphosis*, by Franz Kafka; *The Day of the Locust*, by Nathaniel West; and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. Each has a fairly hard cover in four colours, and breaks the magic barrier of £5 by being for sale at £4.95. You need a backlist as long and strong as those of Heinemann and Secker & Warburg for such a project. They intend eventually to republish about 600 of their titles as Landmarks. Sadly the printing is being done in Finland: it would have cost three times as much to print in Great Britain.

Crime

Of trust and betrayal

Berlin Game
By Len Deighton
(Hutchinson, £8.95)

So Deighton hasn't been short-listed for the Booker. I haven't yet read the novels that were, but they'll need to be pretty damn good to equal the writing here. And, though this story of an agent, his wife in the business, and an old debt of honour to be paid on the far side of the Curtain is rich in splendidly telling phrases ("the sort of compressed permanent wave that fitted like a rubber swimming cap") and pointedly sharp descriptions ("being in the process of writing a report was the nearest that Dicky ever came to admitting total ignorance"), it is not these one-liners that put it so high. It is the sheer consistent rightness page after page after page.

It is this that gives one as one reads the book, for all its dealing with unweary life, the feeling that it did all actually happen. The words which the characters (the people, rather) say to each other are not those that come most readily to hand; they are the fruit of concentrated effort (did you know that a Berliner is a sort of doughnut?) used not to impress but to get things absolutely right.

This in itself would not have made me think Deighton was it not that such writing is used to explore a major human concern (unless it had been, the words could hardly have reached such intensity), the theme of betrayal. From the very opening scene, as two men contemplate the Wall they have been welded to for almost 25 years, on to the hero's final sickening certainty the notion vibrates in the mind. Nor is it treated at its most obvious always. We see more than once the betrayed as half willing his betrayal. "Nothing here is what it seems," the hero thinks looking at the buildings of Berlin's hollow heart, "and that appeals to me." And it is his despised jumped-over-him boss who bleats later, with slow-fuse irony, "Sometimes things are what they appear to be." So trust and betrayal, those two poles that exist in us all, are investigated up and down, through and through, and one lays down the book exclaiming "Oh, brave old world that has such writers in it."

The Danger, by Dick Francis (Michael Joseph, £7.95). Francis cannot fail. The steel-true humanity he brings to this exciting, and revealing, story of antiknappers at work put tears in my eyes. Gomer Kelly, by Anthony Price (Gollancz, £7.95). Secrets up-writ in tucked-away Dorset village, spymasters pursue, Buchanan mysticism hovers. Hard to beat for stirring of plot till all bolts billowing over.

The Ancestral Precipice, by Jan Ekstrom (Macmillan, £7.50). Complexities and characters in Sweden, as rich old lady waves her will, shots are heard, doors found locked. Brace yourself for tough tussle. (Translation: Joan Tate.)

Fletch and the Man Who... by Gregory McDonald (Gollancz, £6.95). Deaths strewn a Presidential candidate's campaign trail and we learn the horrors, sharply seen. To be read on your mental toes.

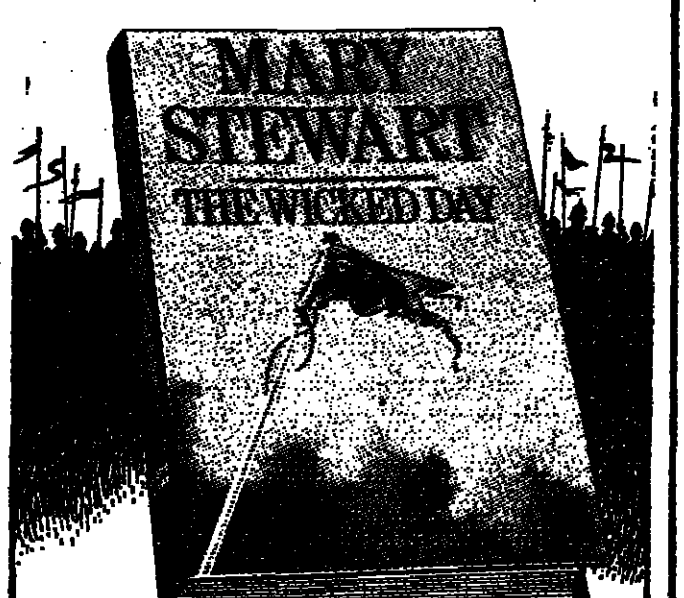
A Flaw in the System, by R.B. Dominie (Macmillan, £6.95). Washington and the U.S. aero-industry get a sharp dressing

and we get a clever murder puzzle and expert crescendo of complications. *Bleed on the Happy Highway*, by Sheila Radley (Constable, £6.50). Suffolk and mystery corpses, especially good with the weather in the lanes. A nice family-supper of a story, nourishing if hodge-podge.

The Company of Saints, by Evelyn Anthony (Hutchinson, £7.95). Britain's security chief a woman. Of course she defeats Fu-Manchu-like conspiracy, much helped by her creator's splendidly cavalier way with mere facts.

H. R. F. Keating

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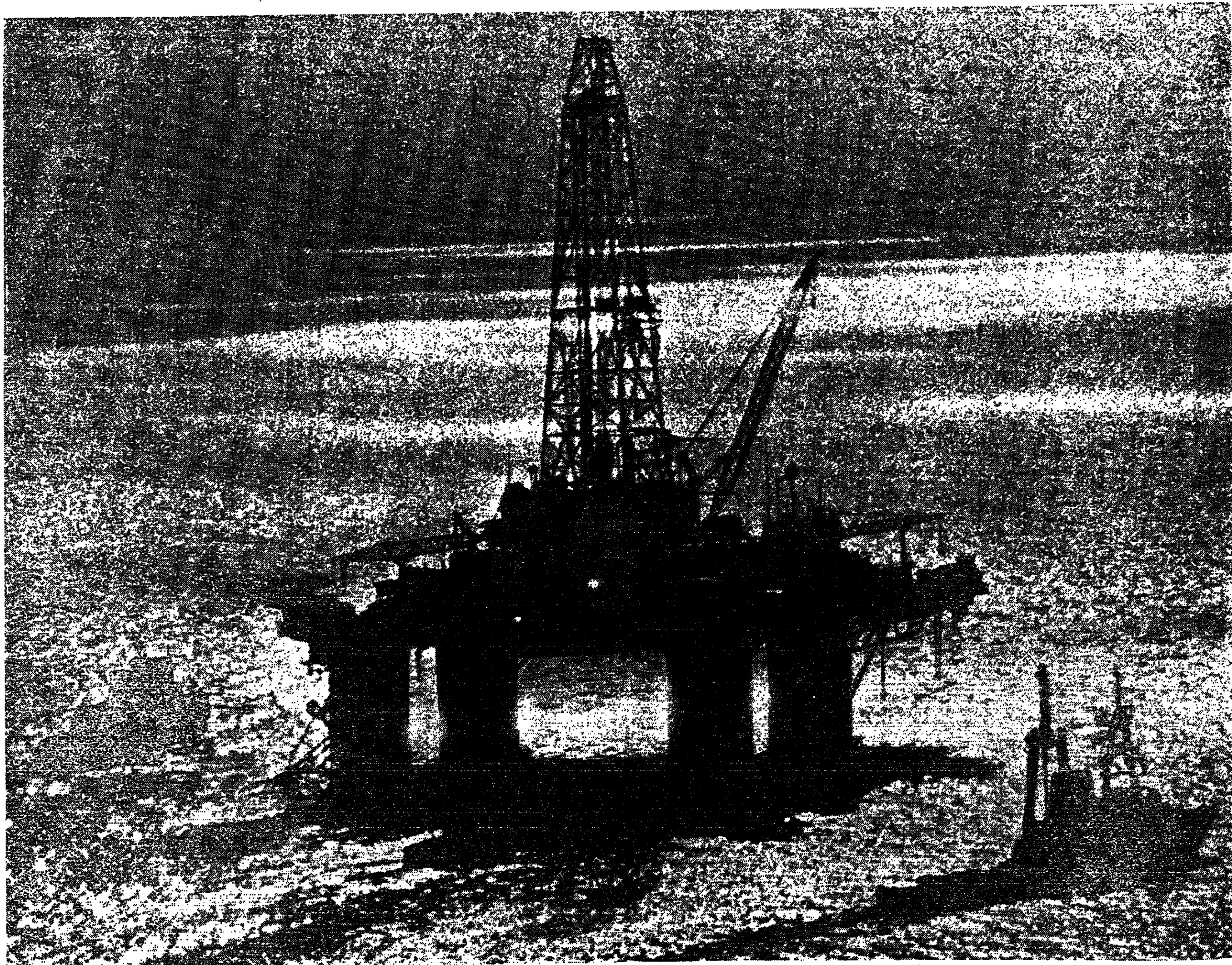
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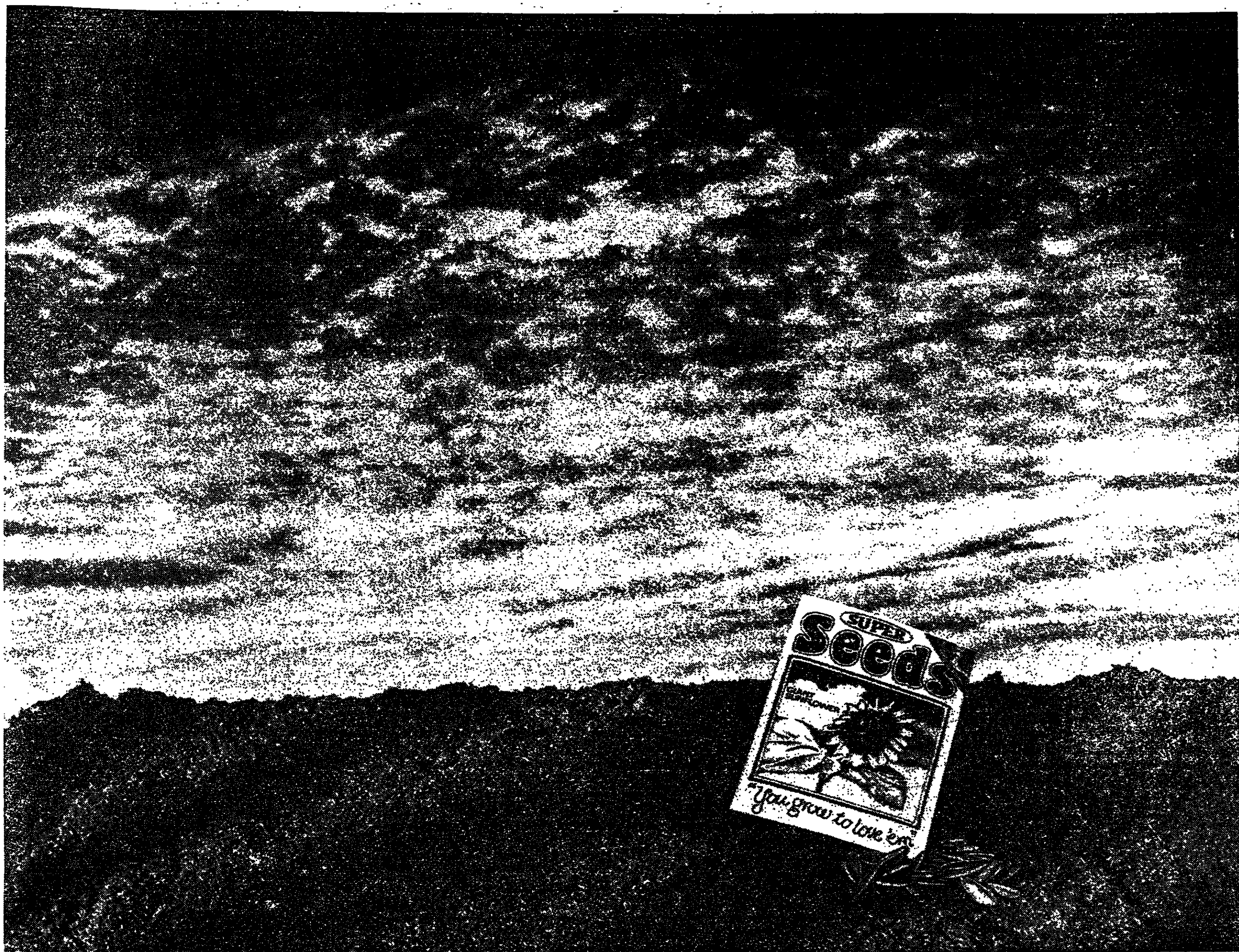
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A SPECIAL REPORT



Scotland

There is growing optimism north of the border. Much patient work and investment in restructuring the economy are producing results

It was once a tradition that Scotland fared worse than England in recession and that England's chill turned to pneumonia by the time it reached the ailing, heavy industries of west central Scotland. That tradition is gone and the strongest optimism now lies north of the border.

Scottish heavy industry remains critically vulnerable in most sectors but the threat that still stalks the shipyards of the Clyde, the steel mills of Lanarkshire, and the coal mines of central Scotland, has been countered by positive action in the direction of new industry. Years of patient work and investment have gone into restructuring the Scottish economy and are at last bearing results. At the same time, the oil industry is reflecting longer-term benefits through the developed expertise that can be applied outside the North Sea.

To an outsider it is also strikingly apparent that Scotland benefits enormously by comparison with similarly hard-hit industrial areas in England in having a government structure that is strong and autonomous. Scotland, with a population of fewer than six million, has a minister in the government, a development agency with strong financial teeth and a powerful sense of identity.

By government direction and incentive it has received a lion's share of the electronics industry and overseas investment, and a flock of impressively successful new towns. North Sea oil has produced its own lucrative spin-off in the Grampians around Aberdeen. Directly or indirectly, the oil industry now employs 100,000 workers, while electronics, established in Scotland as long ago as the 1950s, has expanded rapidly in recent years to 200 or so companies -

KINGDOM OF SCOTLAND

Area: 29,800 sq. miles

Population: 5,167,000 persons

(2,487,000 males)

(2,680,000 females)

Unemployed: 330,300 (14.8 per cent) (July 1983)

Live births (1982): 66,200

Marriages registered: 34,900 (1982)

many owned by multi-nationals

- employing 40,000 people.

Unemployment remains

serious but it is no worse on

average, and often better, than

in many other parts of the

United Kingdom. It stands at

14.8 per cent, compared with 16

per cent for the north of

England, nearly 15 per cent in

the West Midlands and 15 per

cent in Wales.

The country has one of the

largest concentrations in Europe

of semi-conductor manufacture

(microchip and personal com-

puters) and a substantial invest-

ment in the research and

development sector of that fast-

moving industry. California's

Silicon Valley is now comple-

mented by Scotland's Silicon

Glen. Investment in the Scot-

tish electronics industry in the

past two years is estimated at

£150m.

In the past decade, the face of

Scotland has changed infinitely

for the better, again with

positive practical and cash help

from the Scottish Development

Agency (SDA) and government

aid directed from the Scottish

Office. Clearing slums, face-

lifting derelict areas, and im-

proving the landscape, remain

big business in Scotland, and

the impact has been remark-

able. The latest reports show

that Scotland last year received

regional development grant

payments of £287m, with

£53.8m in selective grant aid.

As a result, 11,000 jobs were

created and 8,300 existing jobs safeguarded.

Scottish economic planners

are somewhat relieved that at

least for the present the drain of

jobs has slowed, although it is

clear that traditional industry

could still suffer catastrophic

job losses. Such famous labour-

intensive names as Singer,

Goodyear, Talbot, Massey Fer-

guson and Timex are all on a

casualty list that shows the loss

of 200,000 jobs in Scotland in

the past decade.

Coalmining is also badly

affected by recession, and

depressed demand at power

stations, which take the bulk of

Scottish production. Three pits

have closed this year; five

million tonnes of coal (equalling

half a year's production) is

stockpiled; several of the 14

remaining pits, which employ

14,000 men, face an uncertain

future.

The outlook for Ravenscraig

steelworks is one of the most

crucial issues in central Scot-

land.

Perhaps too much reliance

was placed in the past on too

few industries, and when the

era of the wind-up watch ended,

and the Timex factory shut

down a large part of its

production, Dundee faced

serious decline. It is now

offering its seaport, greatly

improved airport, and excellent

communications, to industrial

customers. The Dundee Tech-

nology Park, which spreads

over 120 acres of greenfield

overlooking the river Tay, has

facilities for small start-up firms

and large companies that wish

to build their own facility on a

fully serviced site.

Other science parks in Glas-

gow, Aberdeen, Stirling and

Edinburgh emphasize the

strongly forged links between

universities and industry. For

once, Scotland is well ahead of

the field.

Ronald Faux



High-tech workers in the Motorola silicon chip plant at East Kilbride

The powers of the clan chiefs

Pity the poor Clan Dunbar of Mochrum, for they are without a chief. Two rival Dunbars are currently jockeying for the title in protracted litigation before the Lyon Court in Edinburgh, that ancient ornament of the Scottish legal system which rules on matters of clans, tartans and heraldry.

Whichever Dunbar is finally granted the chieftom, he will not inherit much beyond kudos and the doubtful privilege of endless New World Dunbars knocking at his door. Almost all the real powers of clan chiefs were abolished in the unhappy aftermath of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion.

Virtually his only real right will be to have his own coat of arms drawn up and recognized in the manner of a commercial trademark. He can then extract royalties from any shortbread manufacturer or other entrepreneur who might want to use it for packaging.

Who can be a clan chief? It is, like royalty, basically hereditary, but if the chief's family has died out, leading members of the clan can hold a *Derbyshire*, an old Gaelic word for a council, and elect one of their own

Tartans

number. In such a way have the Forsyths and the MacLennans elected their chief in recent years. Disputes over who should be Number One have very occasionally gone all the way to the House of Lords.

One absolute barrier to becoming a clan chief is to have a double-barrelled name on the basis that, in the case of a clan feud, one barrel could find itself fighting the other. Thus Sir Alec Douglas-Home can never be chief of the Homes, and the Duke of Hamilton, being a Douglas-Hamilton, will not be recognized as chief by the Lyon Court.

If the members of a clan wish to swear allegiance to their chief or otherwise look up to him, that is entirely up to them, and the allegiance holds approximately the same legal weight as the swearing-in of a boy Scout - that is to say, none at all.

There is slightly more legal backing for a chief and his tartan. To imagine that, in the feudal clan days before 1745, every clan strode the Highlands

in kilts of precisely designed pattern is a massive misconception. At best they would have had woollen plaids, perhaps with a slight criss-cross pattern, which might vary slightly from one area to another.

Modern tartans are a nineteenth century invention, and shot to popularity at the time of King George IV's state visit to Scotland in 1822. Wilson's of Bannockburn, one of Scotland's largest weavers of the time, had a pattern book. If the MacNoddy of Inverarity wanted a cloth, he picked by number the one that took his eye. So number 27 in the pattern book became, in time, the official MacNoddie tartan.

Nowadays a clan chief, and only a clan chief, can register a tartan with the Lyon Court, where a committee will examine it to ensure that it does not duplicate an existing pattern.

And absolutely anybody, anywhere, can wear it, even if they have a double-barrelled name. Mind you, it is not at all likely that a MacNoddie would be seen striding the streets of Glasgow swathed in yards of the Campbell.

Alan Hamilton

Europe's last great wilderness

Were the sun to shine more often and the rain to fall a little less on the coast between the Mull of Kintyre and Cape Wrath, there is every risk that the region would by now have become intrusively developed by the tourist industry. Instead it remains a superbly unspoilt area of small communities with an unchanging way and pace of life. The last great wilderness in Europe, some say, protected by its weather and the ubiquitous Scottish midge against exploitation.

In my own experience the reality of the climate is far better than its reputation. In May, June and September, there can be continuous spells of fine weather when the air is crisp, the lochs sparkle and the colours of the countryside are superb.

There is a natural division between tourists seeking the hot sand of the Costa del Concrete and those who enjoy a cooler climate. The late Ronald MacDonald, postmaster at Glenbrittle on the Isle of Skye, reproached a group of unhappy waterlogged campers with these words: "I do not believe you are being quite philosophic for a holiday on Skye."

Last year the Scottish tourist industry earned a record £760m and generated 13,500,000 "tourist trips" which is how the Scottish Tourist Board count the visitor's staying overnight at one place before they move on to another. Only 10 per cent were from abroad and half the number came from within Scotland itself which might suggest that the charm of the country is a secret well kept within its borders or that more should be done by travel agents to sell Scotland.

Most overseas visitors are from North America or Canada, many on whistle-stop tours that include Edinburgh, Glasgow, and a quick round of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs as part of an all-inclusive British touring holiday. The STB aims much of its promotion at increasing the flow of visitors from across the Atlantic. It is not unusual to find Canadians with Scottish names searching the highlands for their roots. Many seem more aware of

being Scottish than the people still living in the area.

The STB gives financial help and advice to those providing the holidays, encouraging travel agents and tourist information centres to push Scotland with the same enthusiasm as they would Benidorm. The STB is spending more than £2m on promoting Scottish holidays this year. There is also more cooperation and help within the trade, seventeen new area tourist boards were recently formed. The Scottish Confederation of Tourism (SCOT) brings together all sections into one tourist "think tank".

There has been a sharp improvement in the size and quality of hotel provision in the Strathclyde area which, with Edinburgh and the Lothians, are most popular with tourists.

Tourism

But more must be done to promote tourism. Certainly few countries have the diverse scenery and the history of Scotland.

Attempts have been made to increase tourism by developing conference facilities, notably in Glasgow. The Edinburgh Festival is world famous. Cairngorm, near the resorts of Aviemore and Glenelg, offers excellent skiing. Although the area is not as dramatic as the Alps, it has become popular with hundreds of thousands of Britons.

Scotland caters to the outdoor sportsman eminently well. Golf was born here and the concentration of courses is unequalled. The hills offer fine climbing, the forests excellent stalking, while the west coast, has well sheltered sailing. The Caledonian canal ranks as one of the most spectacular waterways in the world and is, of course, the home of perhaps the single aid to Scottish tourism: the Loch Ness "phenomenon." With mythical monsters, the grandest scenery, a history expressed in fine castles and the bloodiest battles, the job of the Scottish Tourist Board should not be all that difficult.

RF

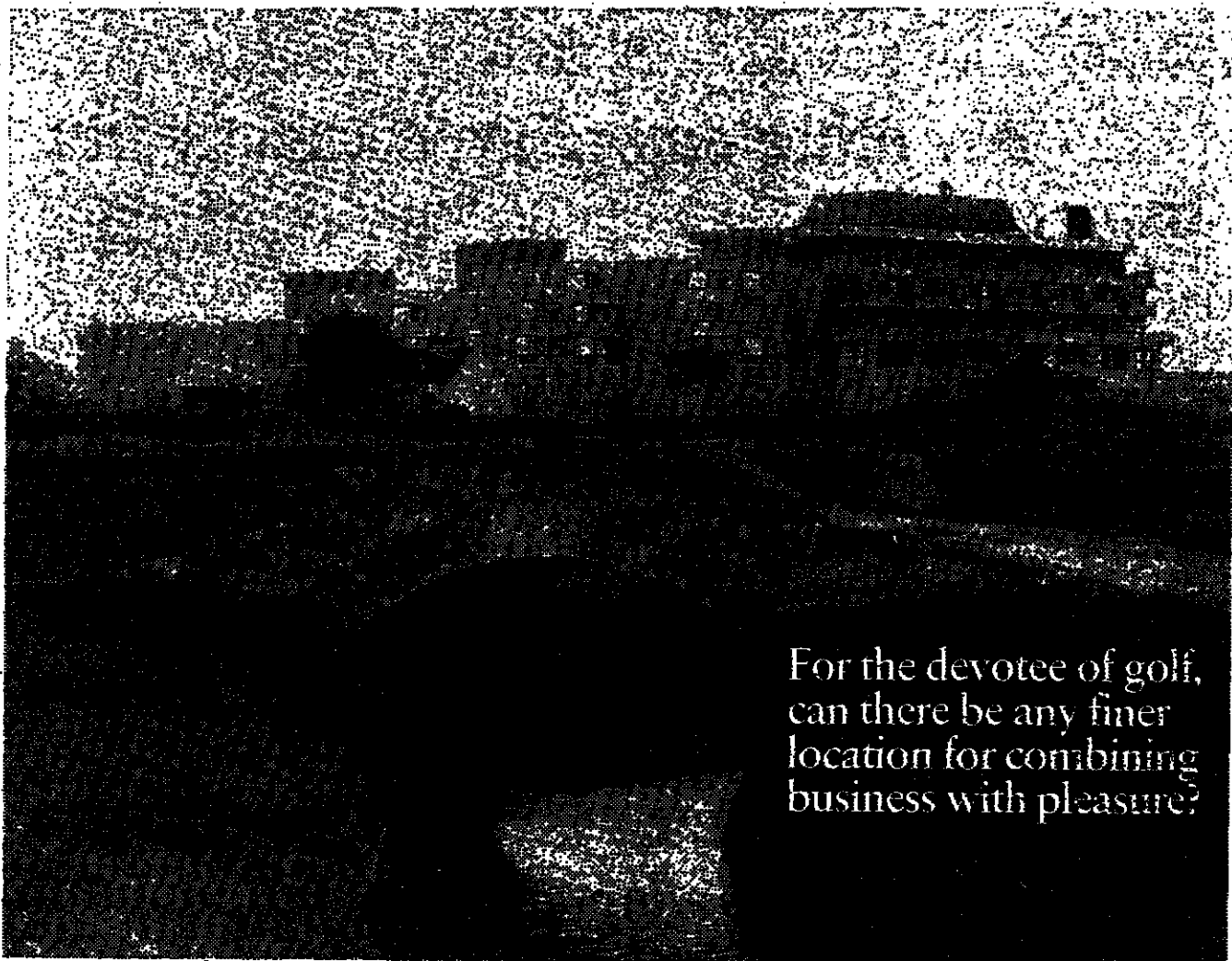
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The costly result of whisky galore

A new feature has appeared on the economic landscape of the European Community. Beside the butter mountain and the wine lake there is now, in the foothills of the grain mountain, a sizeable whisky loch.

After 25 years of distilling that out to meet an apparently insatiable world thirst which grew at a steady 9 per cent a year, the Scotch whisky industry is now paying the price of overproduction. In the past four years it has had to lay off 5,000 workers, with all the social consequences in remote areas already suffering high unemployment and poor prospects.

Distillers Company, which dominates the industry, has been forced to shut down production at eleven of its distilleries.

Between 1970 and 1980, domestic consumption of whisky almost doubled, from 27 million to over 50 million litres of pure alcohol, the measure by which Customs and Excise calculates the amount of neat spirit leaving the bonded warehouses. But by 1982, home consumption had fallen back to its 1976 level of 44.8 million litres.

This does not suggest, how-

Whisky

ever, that a wholesale desertion of whisky is in progress; it still commands 51 per cent of the total British spirit market, far ahead of its nearest competitor, gin, which has only 14 per cent.

The United States remains by far the biggest overseas market, worth £224.5m last year. It is followed, a long way behind, by France (£69m) and Japan (£58.2m). Next is Italy (£51m) where they have a particular taste for straight malts, consuming 1 million litres last year. The other major export markets are Venezuela (£39m), Germany (£28m), South Africa (£25m), Belgium (£21m) and Australia (£19m).

One bright spot for the Highland distillers is the growing popularity of bottled single malt whisky, which last year increased its sales by a quarter. In 1982 the British single malt market stood at 3.38 million bottles worth £35m, with a further 10.8 million bottles going abroad.

Scottish distillers remain divided over the ethics of



Whisky making at Laphroaig Distillery, Isle of Islay

selling malt whisky in bulk to foreign producers who eagerly seek it to add some character and quality to their dubious local distillations. Last year the equivalent of 75 million bottles of malt went abroad in bulk to add respectability to the native "whiskies" of Japan, Spain, and Ecuador, to name only three.

Foreign distillers have also tried the ploy of buying Scottish malt distilleries in order to secure a slice of the action.

The bonded warehouses of Scotland currently hold the equivalent of some 9,000 million bottles of whisky, and at present rates of consumption the world's throats can swallow only a little over 800 million bottles a year. The real competition is that, in the next few years, there should be no shortage of excellent old whisky to be had.

AH

Tories unmoved by new Alliance

Politics

If Scottish readers of *The Times* will be patient for a little, it might be helpful for those south of the border to recap the results of the general election. We all know Mrs Thatcher increased her already formidable Commons majority, but did Scotland help her do it?

The answer is "no". The Conservatives in Scotland came out of the June 9 election with 21 seats, the same number they had held before the campaign started. In the process, however, their share of the vote fell and they suffered some notable casualties, two ministers among them.

Labour put up its worse performance since the war, but this is telling - did nowhere near as badly as in the United Kingdom as a whole and finished with almost twice the number of seats as the Conservatives.

The Scottish National Party, looking increasingly now like a spent force, did well to cling to the two seats it held after the daughter of 1979.

It is the Alliance which alone can claim to have come out of the election with real gains. Only one Scottish defector to the SDP got his marching orders (Dr J Dickson Maben at Inverclyde), and in return the 23-year-old Charles Kennedy

took Ross, Cromarty and Skye for the SDP, unseating in the process a well-liked MP, Mr Hamish Gray, the oil minister. Mrs Thatcher ennobled him and gave him a job in the Scottish Office - a move which prompted a howl of protest from the electors who had just unseated him. The Liberals matched the trick and despatched trade minister Iain Sproat from a new seat in the Borders.

So much for recent history. What does this mean for Scotland now? It means that a country which is overwhelmingly anti-Tory continues to be run by a Conservative secretary of state - Mrs Thatcher's proconsul in Scotland, as a leading article in *The Times* has described him. Scotland manifestly did not come under the Thatcher spell. The really interesting question, therefore, is why does it now acquiesce so quietly to Thatcherite rule?

And it does submit quietly. Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, has wielded the big stick against oversteering Labour-controlled local authorities and met with only token opposition. There were no riots

in Scotland during the summer of 1981 when English cities erupted, and the relentless industrial closures which have decimated traditional Scottish industries such as coal mining, steelmaking, shipbuilding and engineering have been met with passive acceptance.

State of the parties in Scotland

Party	Seats	% vote	change on 1979
Labour	41	36	-4.4
Conservative	21	36	-3.0
Liberal	8	24	+12.2
SNP	2	11	-5.6

Percentage does not add up to 100 because of rounding-up.

The SNP - the vehicle for the expression of much post-up frustration against both Labour and Conservative governments in the 1970s - is a shadow of its old self. For the last two years it has used up a lot of its formidable political energy in internal fighting. Its leader, Mr Gordon Wilson, MP for Dundee East, attempted to bring unity to his party at the annual conference in Rothesay at the beginning of the month and to give it a more acceptable political image, but was only partially successful.

From the heady days of climbing mass membership and brimming coffers, delegates

were told by the treasurer that the party is now facing a financial crisis, largely as a result of falling membership. The SNP is estimated to have only a quarter of the membership it had in the mid-1970s when the figure topped 80,000. The deficit is reckoned to be £25,000 and rising.

If the nationalists are not causing Mr Younger to lose any sleep, he cannot yet have had many bad nights as a result of Labour opposition, despite the brave words on election night of Mr George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Cannock and Doune Valley, to make the job of secretary of state untenable.

The Scottish Parliamentary Labour Party is unlikely to give wholehearted support to a battle to gain devolution which undermines the constitutional authority of Parliament at Westminster as part of its tactics. That would smack too much of tactics that might be employed by the nationalists.

The Labour Party conference in Brighton pledged support for a Scottish legislative assembly but said it would not work with other political parties to achieve it. For the moment that looks like empty rhetoric.

RP

Banking independence brings rich rewards

Students of the electronics industry know the "Silicon Valley effect" - the spawning of new businesses from established companies which has provided much of the dynamism behind America's high-tech expansion.

A similar sort of phenomenon is visible in Scottish finance. It may not be as dramatic, but it proves the health and vigour of an industry that is 250 years old.

Recently Scottish finance has found its independence under attack. The Royal Bank of Scotland, biggest of the three Scottish clearing banks and the flagship of the sector, was the subject of two competing takeover bids until a vigorous campaign persuaded the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block them. And predators from the south have been nibbling at the investment trust sector, which was the scene of two fierce takeover battles in the mid-1970s.

But these incursions have been absorbed without undue damage and the last few years has seen a rich crop of new businesses started up in banking and financial management - extending and deepening the range of services available from Edinburgh, and consolidating its reputation as the second financial centre of the United Kingdom.

In several of these ventures individuals who have established their reputations in existing companies have broken away to form new ones, in similar or related fields. The latest, First Northern Corporate

Finance

Finance, was established by two former directors of Noble Grossart, the Edinburgh merchant bank.

Hugh Barry, 31, and Hamish Grossart, 26, nephew of Angus, Noble Grossart's managing director, offer corporate financial advice to small, growing companies. "We are essentially taking the corporate financial division from a merchant bank and establishing it as an entity in its own right," Barry comments. "That sort of operation is accepted in London, but is still fairly unusual in Scotland."

A very different sort of financial business was established by Dr Walter Scott, who broke away from fund managers Ivory and Sims last year to found his own pensions management firm. Originally a Cambridge-trained physicist, Scott's reputation in his second career can be judged by the volume of business he has built up since starting work with his two partners - Ian Clark and James Anderson, both also ex-Ivory men.

"We now have five clients, representing between £200-£220m in assets and are up to eight staff, but I suspect that is it for the near future," he says. Ivory and Sims has been a major source of innovation in Scottish finance over the years, and Edinburgh is full of ex-Ivory men running their own shows.

A second Scottish fund

management company - Edinburgh Fund Managers, which counts unit trusts, pension schemes and investment trusts among the £435m it has under management - is shortly to follow Ivory and Sims to market, although it is applying for a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market.

In banking, the last few months have seen a number of new institutions launched. Quayle Munro, formed by ex-British Linen Bank director Ian Jones and Mike Munro of East of Scotland Investment Managers, will offer corporate financial advice to industrial and commercial companies and investment management services, and hopes eventually for full merchant banking status.

Adam & Company is a comparative rarity - a new retail bank. Its aim will be to provide bespoke banking services, including cheque book and current accounts to a small but wealthy sector of the market. It has already raised £7.5m in foundation capital from individuals and Scottish institutions, and will open its doors for business in the New Year.

The big Scottish banks have not, however, been standing still. The Royal Bank Group has started the complex and lengthy process of fusing its Scottish and English banking arms, which by 1985 will lead to the disappearance of the name Williams & Glyn's and the emergence of United Kingdom banking with 900 branches under the name Royal Bank of Scotland.

The merger is absorbing

much of the bank's energies, but it has still found time to branch out into new areas, such as merchant banking. At the beginning of the year it launched a new merchant banking arm under the name National Commercial & Glyn's, a cumbersome title that will be replaced with something shorter when the bank receives its licence from the Bank of England and starts operations properly.

The advent of NC & G invites comparison with the launch five years ago of the British Linen Bank by the Royal's main rival Bank of Scotland.

British Linen is now an established merchant bank - the largest outside London - but it has also taken its parent bank into financial services outside mainstream banking, including pension management and unit trusts.

Bank of Scotland still refuses to confine itself to Scotland's borders and, although firmly rooted in Edinburgh, has been expanding into England with branches in cities like Bristol, Birmingham and Southampton. It has also been selling its services wider than the branch network, offering its money market cheque account through national advertising and combining with the Nottingham Building Society to provide Homelink, Britain's first television banking service. With half-year profits up 23 per cent to £27.5m, Bank of Scotland's aggressive marketing is clearly paying off.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Maxim's big guns

Pierre Cardin launched Maxim's London season with an ostentatious "private" dinner party last night which obliged the restaurant to insure its cloakroom for £1m. Guests included Princess Fyza of Jordan, Prince Adnan Aga Khan, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Baroness de Rothschild, and Lord and Lady Spencer Churchill. With Faye Dunaway, Charlotte Rampling and Mark Thatcher among those on the lower tables, the 180 guests were treated to a nap-hand of traditional haute cuisine by chef Christian-Paul Moury.

The most famous restaurant in the world opened its London premises informally in July, after negotiations between Cardin, its owner for the past five years, and the British catering concern Kennedy Brookings. While the rest of last night's guests arrived by Rolls-Royce, the 61-year-old French fashion designer opted for delivery in a refurbished 1920s Maxim's van.

● I offer without comment the latest in a grand tradition of anti-British antipodean graffiti: "Grow your own dope - plant a Pom."

Acid warning

"Could the next five years turn sour?" was the appetizing title given to the talk by the Cabinet's arch pessimist, John Biffen, to the National Association of Graduate Unemployed in Blackpool yesterday. Remembering the Leader of the Commons' headline-winning warnings in the past of years of austerity ahead, the media turned out in force and helped pack a small, airless room in the basement of the Clarendon Hotel. Biffen appeared surprised by the interest and immediately sought to dampen expectations when he opened his remarks by quoting Croucho Marx: "The title has little to do with the content but it might at least get some people into the cinema."

Printing error

Beaver, the London School of Economics' student newspaper, will cost less to produce when the first edition of the new academic year appears next week following a successful search for cheaper printers. Good news, you would think, for Richard Bacon, its enthusiastic young editor. Unfortunately for Bacon, a past chairman of Worcester Young Conservatives who also finds time to be deputy editor of *Crossbow*, the Bow Group's quarterly journal, the new printers are none other than Cambridge Heath Press of Militant Tendency fame. "It is all highly embarrassing", Bacon confesses.

BARRY FANTONI



"Here are the air tickets and insurance, and your code name's Albatross"

Unseemly conduct

The scandal that lay behind Otto Klemperer's declining an invitation to conduct *Lohengrin* in Hamburg in 1966 is revealed today in Peter Hayworth's biography of the manic-depressive conductor. Klemperer's previous Hamburg *Lohengrin*, more than 50 years earlier, had ended in uproar when the conductor was struck across the face with a riding crop during the coda of the final chorus by the husband of his prima donna, Elisabeth Schumann. Klemperer clambered out of the orchestra pit into which he had been propelled by the blows and was separated from his assailant only by a pastor who claimed to be a friend of the family. The conductor then dusted himself off and explained to the astonished audience that "Herr Puritz has attacked me because I love his wife. Good evening". The matter ended peacefully, however, with a statement from Klemperer's lawyer sometime later assuring the aggrieved husband "in the most solemn manner, that no damage had occurred to his marital rights".

Overlord, commissioned from the artist Sandra Lawrence by Lord Dufferin in 1968 to commemorate the 1944 Normandy landings, is to be moved from the Whitbread Brewery in the City of London, because, according to trustee Admiral Sir Charles Madden the number of visitors is far below the number hoped for. Lord Dufferin, Sir Charles and the chairman of the trustees, the Duke of Norfolk, have agreed to place the tapestry on a 99-year renewable loan to a D-Day museum under construction by Portsmouth City Council in the grounds of Southsea Castle, which it is hoped will be opened in time for the city's 40th anniversary celebrations of D-Day next year. Portsmouth was the planning headquarters and start-off point for the invasion.

PHS

Policies failing, prospects grave

Sir Ian Gilmour argues that although monetarism has been discredited, its lingering effects will damage the economy for years to come

The reason why the welfare state and other Tory objectives and achievements are under threat can be given in one word: monetarism. You may think that in talking about monetarism I am indulging in intellectual archaeology. Monetarism, that once all-popular word, has now, after all, virtually disappeared from sight.

But even if monetarism has lost its name and is decidedly punch-drunk, the dogma is still there. No, that is not quite right. The dogma has retreated into the shadows, shorn of much of its theoretical basis and support, but the dogmatism is as strong as ever. A government that won't pay to put people to work soon finds that it has serious difficulties paying for them to go to hospital or school or even to be defended from enemies abroad and criminals at home. If we are not careful, it won't even be anarchy plus the constable - we shall be able to afford the constable.

Nevertheless we are assured that in this country the economic policy is now working and that a recovery is taking place. That would be profoundly encouraging - although it was slightly dampening to find the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Washington the other day still talking about laying foundations.

Clearly, however, there has been some rise in production since the lowest point of 1981. But one is not entitled to certify that there has been a recovery unless national production is rising faster than the national capacity to produce.

Unfortunately, by that criterion, there has not been a recovery. That is demonstrated by the fact that unemployment, which rose by more than 1½ million in the three years from 1979 to September 1982, has since risen by a quarter of a million.

We all know that employment takes time to respond to changes in demand, and that unemployment is now increasing more slowly. Nevertheless, the rate of increase over the past year is still high by historic standards, and when we remember the poverty and hardship associated with unemployment, another quar-

ter of a million people on the dole in a year invites the conclusion that we are still going the wrong way even if less fast than we were before.

The growth that we have had has been caused not by changed attitudes, higher productivity, any new mood of realism or acceptance of lower real wages, or any other of the current catch phrases. It has been caused quite simply, like every other rise in output in postwar Britain, by an expansion of demand.

This little expansion, far from laying the foundations for sustained growth, has coincided with a serious weakening of the economy. Thus between 1981 and the first half of 1983 the current balance of payments deteriorated in a deeply alarming way. The overall deterioration was about £5½ billion; but over the same period the oil balance improved by over £3bn. So in less than two years the non-oil balance has deteriorated by nearly £9bn. Those are horrendous figures.

The necessary alternative to monetarism can be simply stated: a policy of sustained expansion of a kind that is neither inflationary on the one hand nor damaging to the balance of payments on the other.

A surprisingly large number of people, including many well to the left of the Tory tradition, now believe that such a reflation is a contradiction in terms. The monetarists have persuaded them that the higher government spending and borrowing and the lower interest rates that reflation implies would necessarily put up prices and would necessarily damage our international trade. Fortunately this is wholly untrue.

The outcome of any particular reflationary programme will always depend on two things. First, on the scale of the reflation in relation to

the existing level of economic activity; second, on the purposes to which the additional resources pumped into the economy are put.

As for the scale of any reflation in the UK in the immediate future, there is a need for great caution. Our economy is so debilitated by bankruptcies and by the reduction of capital investment that even at our present very low levels of economic activity we have rising inflation, and for the first time in our history, a deficit in manufactured trade. In these circumstances, reflation, even if it is accompanied by appropriate measures, will achieve only a limited increase in growth.

There are four things which the Government should do to ensure that reflation entails the optimum allocation of new resources.

● It should reduce industrial costs by abolishing the national insurance surcharge, by reducing industry's ordinary national insurance contributions and by restraining, not increasing, the energy costs imposed on industry by the public utilities.

● It should ensure that in its own increases in expenditure there is an appropriate balance between capital and current spending. And to make sure the most useful capital projects are selected it must be careful to choose them only after particular consultation with the private sector, in particular within the framework of NEDO and the EDCs. There should be no ideological nonsense about being unwilling to enter discussions of this kind because of the "corporatist" implications.

● The Government must accompany reflation with measures to make borrowing for industrial investment much easier, as it is in Japan and West Germany.

● It should introduce an effective incomes policy covering both the private and public sector.

Very much more could be done if our reflation could be coordinated with that of other countries. The United States provides an instructive example. There the prophet Friedman is scorned in his own land. In the US there is unquestionably a strong recovery, and unemployment is coming down. New supply side is but old demand side writ large. While Britain is still obsessed with the PSBR, the Americans run an enormous deficit and the economy booms.

Britain and the partners in the European Community will be crazy if they do not take advantage of developments across the Atlantic and embark on a common programme of recovery. But if the Government, unlike the Reagan administration, rejects expansion and remains wedded to Friedman, monetarism and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, we are entitled to ask some questions.

First, after successfully winning two elections the Government is more than ever pledged to getting the economy right, so has it any idea when this might actually happen?

Second, is the Government prepared to admit that any level of unemployment is intolerable? And by "intolerable" I don't just mean saying that it is intolerable and then proceeding to tolerate it as did Michael Foot when he was Employment Secretary.

Third, can the Government tell us what, on present economic policies, will be better in four years time? Will inflation be lower? Will growth be much higher? Will there be more jobs? Will there be higher standards in schools? Better health care? What will be better?

I doubt if there could be reassuring answers to these questions. The outlook is grave.

The author is Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham. The article has been extracted from a speech given last night to the Tory Reform Group in Blackpool.

Edward Mortimer on the plight of a people from whom hope has fled

Justice undone, the new West Bank anguish

For the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank, the political future has never looked bleaker than it does now. Even the Reagan plan - which by no means aroused the general enthusiasm on the West Bank that its authors liked to imagine - is now clearly a dead letter.

The focus of international interest has shifted to Lebanon. The PLO, which had been accepted by most West Bankers as the symbol of their aspiration to independence, is paralysed by the split between pro and anti Arafat factions.

King Hussein has made it clear that he will undertake no political initiative on the West Bank without PLO support. To many, probably most people on the West Bank this is a relief rather than a disappointment, because it reduces the risk of an open conflict among the West Bank Arabs themselves. But the King is still distrusted by many, and the new restrictions he has introduced on travel across the Jordan - ostensibly aimed at discouraging further Palestinian emigration - have not made him any more popular.

Another source of relief, perhaps only temporary, is that since Mr Sharon left the defence ministry the Israeli administration seems to have lost interest in the Village Leagues, once canvassed as an embryonic "moderate leadership". Whatever the sincerity of the thinking behind them, the actual behaviour of these leagues followed the classic pattern of collaboration.

Those who took office in them frequently had criminal records. They gave their allegiance to the Israeli administration in return for weapons, which they used to terrorize their local opponents, and for influence in securing grants and permits, which they used to reward their relatives and cronies. The idea that they should become credible representatives of West Bank opinion in any possible talks about autonomy was laughable to anyone who knew them at first hand. In the event, they were not even an effective instrument of Israeli policy.

But the abandonment of the leagues does not indicate any willingness on the Israeli govern-

ment's part to tolerate the revival of a more authentic local leadership, or to concede the kind of demands that such a leadership might make. On the contrary, the administration's recent acts suggest a growing indifference to local opinion - and the relatively muted Arab response suggests that indeed, for the moment, West Bankers are too demoralized to react.

The clearest indication of this is in Hebron. For several years, Jewish zealots have been occupying buildings in the centre of the town, which had first been expropriated on security grounds by the Israeli army. The settlers remain there in defiance of local opinion, protected by troops.

They seek to take over more buildings at every opportunity, usually claiming that they are buildings which belonged to Jews before the massacre of 1929, although not on the basis of any individual proprietary rights dating from that time. In any case, they would not for one moment concede any Arab right to reoccupy property which belonged to Arabs before 1948, and which has since passed into Jewish hands.

Last year, the municipality of Hebron brought a petition before the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem and obtained an interim injunction which effectively blocked further expansion of the Jewish settlement in the town. That such an injunction could be obtained from an Israeli court was a tribute to Israeli justice and an undoubted setback for the settler lobby. But it was not,

apparently, to the taste of the military government.

In July this year, after a settler had been stabbed to death in the Hebron marketplace, the government dismissed the entire municipal council and appointed an Israeli officer to act in its place. Mr Arens, the Defence Minister, said the mayor and councillors had played a considerable part in creating the atmosphere of violence which led to the killing.

From the background material issued by the army command it appeared, however, that at least one element in this "incident" was "petitioning the High Court of Justice and accusing the (Israeli) civil administration of abetting the illegal demolition and construction of buildings by the settlers in the heart of the Hebron market..."

In other words, the municipality's successful recourse to Israeli legal procedures was held to be tantamount to incitement to violence. And, sure enough, last month the Israeli officer appointed as acting mayor proceeded to cancel the petition brought by the Arab municipality the year before. Had the government's main purpose been to dislodge Arabs of any notion that Israeli justice might conceivably benefit them in any circumstances, it would hardly have proceeded otherwise.

Nor is that an isolated case. In the same week that the petition was cancelled, a disciplinary military court acquitted two senior officers. They had been accused of giving

illegal orders to harass Arabs in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), even though evidence given in an earlier court-martial of ordinary soldiers, arising from the same episode, had clearly indicated that the soldiers were acting under orders. Indeed, officers had given evidence in that court-martial to the effect that these orders originated from the then Defence Minister and Chief of Staff, respectively Mr Sharon and General Rafael Eytan.

As the independent Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* pointed out, the use of a disciplinary court rather than a full court-martial for the officers smelt strongly of a cover-up. "All of the officers who were involved in this episode were acquitted, free of any punishment, and only four plain soldiers are guilty of everything which occurred", it noted. "No reasonable person will accept this strange result."

It is only fair to note that these and other comparable occurrences are reported and criticized in Israeli newspapers, and that many politically aware Israelis are very unhappy about them. But what had happened to the main factor which prevented the Labour Party from joining a national unity government was its unwillingness to approve the policy of intensive Jewish settlement in the West Bank which the present government is pursuing. But that is little consolation to the Arabs. So long as Mr Shamir is in power, at any rate, it is clear they have no reason to expect any change for the better.

An Orwell surprise for 1984

Nineteen eighty-four will see the publication in facsimile of part of the original manuscript of George Orwell's prophetic novel.

In Britain, Secker and Warburg, who are executors of the Orwell estate in London, had long been aware of its existence, they said. Orwell had assumed, until this year, that the other considered it to be of only limited interest. Apart from them, only members of remote academic circles had known of its whereabouts.

The pages, now insured for \$250,000 (about £166,000), show how Orwell, at the time in the throes of terminal tuberculosis, reworked his prose endlessly to achieve the novel's tightly pared style. They also contain potentially shocking references (notably one to a negro giving birth on the gallows), which were later expurgated. Though it is not known for certain why the later

pages are hand-written and not typed, the probable reason is that Orwell was confined to bed when he wrote them.

How the manuscript came to survive in this truncated form is also a mystery, in view of the fact that Orwell usually destroyed his own drafts. What is known is that soon after Orwell's death in 1950 his widow Sonia passed it via the English bibliographer John Carter to Scriveners for a charity auction. Siegel's view is that it may then have remained with a collector for 17 years until its resale to Scriveners and his own subsequent acquisition of it for an undisclosed figure.

Professor Peter Davison, who is editing an expanded collection of Orwell's writings, and Tom Rosenthal, chairman of Secker and Warburg, were both surprised when

they discovered, through the microfilm transcript in the Orwell archives at London University, the exact contents of the surviving manuscript, and Rosenthal flew at once to the US to negotiate publishing terms with Siegel.

Davison believes there will be particularly keen interest among American teachers and students. Orwell's work is widely used in the US in readers to aid composition, and the manuscript, he says, will prove of great value in the art of writing that English.

In Rosenthal's words, the manuscript offers "a unique insight into the creative process, and is of inestimable value simply because *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is among the most widely read works of twentieth century literature."

Alan Franks

Ronald Butt

The real message from Blackpool

If the skilful arrangement of a conference agenda were sufficient sign of a political party's internal health and happiness, the Conservative Party, from the Cabinet to the least of its constituency representatives, would have reason for self-congratulation. The first day at Blackpool was dominated by the principal subject on which the Government has something new to say - the Home Secretary's announcement of what is tantamount to a heavier penal code for violent crime, coupled with an attempt to remove from the prisons lesser offenders. Leon Brittan's announcement has aroused some spiteful and hysterical attacks from the liberal press on the ground that if there is a retributive argument for long sentences, and given that some dangerous men have to be put away to protect the public, increasing the length of the sentence is not a deterrent, and is unimportant compared with detection.

On that argument, one might ask whether any term of imprisonment deters, and whether it might not be enough to detect the criminal and set him free. But the Home Secretary can be confident of public support, and the party managers have particular cause to be glad that they selected this subject for the first day in view of the general uneasiness that underlies this conference.

The smoothness of the conference's proceedings was also well served by the way in which local government was discussed. Representatives concerned with local government are worried primarily by what they regard as the increasingly centralist tendencies of the Government as evidenced by its rate-capping plan. They even fear that the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan councils could ultimately have wider significance. Yet what was actually before them was a motion urging the Government to change the rating system to make it fairer - which simply gave Patrick Jenkin, Environment Secretary, the chance to repeat what everybody already knew - that the rating system is here to stay for lack of an acceptable alternative. High rates, he told the conference, were simply the fault of extremist local authorities which pushed their spending and their rates to a point which leaves the Government no alternative but to impose ceilings.

Even so, many Conservatives in local government are now so fearful of centralism that they freely say whether there is much future in local government if it loses all power over the rate it can levy. There is real uneasiness about the survival of the Tory tradition of local responsibility. Still more important, the conference had no specific discussion on future public spending, although it figured in general terms in yesterday's debate on the economy. Public spending is at the heart of the Government's present dilemma in its relations with the electorate. The difficulty arises from the refusal to publish a year ago the leaked Treasury forecast that the longer-term cost of the welfare state was well beyond what the nation could afford without steeply rising prices. Nobody knows how far this analysis (now contradicted by the Institute of Fiscal Studies) is correct, but the failure to have a full discussion on public spending of all kinds before the election has helped to wrong-foot the Government.

For example, before the election the Government was boasting that it was responsible for employing more doctors and nurses than ever. Since

the election, the Treasury has imposed manpower restrictions on the NHS leading to the dismissal of doctors and nurses and is driven to argue that its latest cuts are not cuts because the manpower reductions are simply to keep within the existing spending targets.

The logic is, to say the least, shaky. The Government has been forced into this position because the demands of the open-ended, demand-controlled general practitioner service can be made good only by cash limits in the hospital sector. The Government's dilemma is a real one, but it has become vulnerable to the charge that it did not play sufficiently straight with the public; that after a fairly generous pre-election budget, it has had to claw back money in the current year; that next year it will be driven to cut to keep cash targets; and that the long-term need to take the public along with reshaping the welfare state has been obscured by ill-organized and ill-presented short-term candle-end economies.

The confusion in the argument over public spending, affecting as it does welfare services on which vast numbers of people rely, is potentially damaging to the Government. Unemployment is no less so and beneath the surface many Conservatives recognize the potential threat of socialism, if his party lets him present it. The Government has allowed the impression to grow that it is so mechanistically concerned with the control of money and public spending, and yet so uncertain how to achieve the latter, that it cannot bring itself to express proper concern for the future of unemployment in the age of the microchip, nor plan to deal with it.

Mrs Thatcher's success was built on her reputation for telling the people the truth fully and clearly. That reputation has recently been endangered, and the Government is also seen as being insufficiently concerned with some of the social problems that are the by-product of its policies. This matters because elections are won and lost not simply by a Government's performance just before the election but on the public's memory of its behaviour over the previous five years.

It is never easy to explain satisfactorily government's apparent loss of touch, and it is equally difficult to assess how far the appearance reflects reality. There seems to have been a certain lack of sensitive direction at the top of this Government recently. The Prime Minister has given the impression that she takes the electorate for granted, and is so wrapped up in her own current certainties that she does not need to look further ahead, nor to explain herself.

The unhappy business of Cecil Parkinson's private life has been a further blow to the Conservative Party. Though there is at all levels a disposition to rally round his decision to stay, some in the Cabinet believe that the unseemliness is publicly damaging and that it has made it impossible for the Tories to hammer away at the theme of family values. Certainly, it has added to the uncertainties beneath the exterior of party unity.

When the Conservatives go back to Parliament, they must rediscover how to conduct their relations with the public. They cannot afford to assume that when the next election comes the electorate will have lost its memory.

Geoff Brown

Rolling in the aisles, Icelandic style

Monday night, I was at the Savoy Theatre, watching the intricate manoeuvres of burlesque thespians, sardines, bedroom doors, whisky bottles, contact lenses, flightbags, axes and all the other paraphernalia of Michael Frayn's farcical study of the joys of repertory acting, *Noises Off*. Friday night, I saw the play again. Yes, there was Mrs Clackett, the "housekeeper of character" who opens Act One of the dim-witted farce seen in frantic rehearsal at the Grand Theatre, Weston-super-Mare. There were the characteristic slippers, the headscarf, the hearty pair of socks. But what had happened to the dialogue? On Monday she had muttered: "I can't open the sardines and answer the phone." Now she seemed to say: "Eg get ekki opnad sardínur og svara þú símann sardínur". I was watching a performance in Icelandic, at the National Theatre in Reykjavik.

So far, so good: sardines, being fish, seemed an appropriate Icelandic prop, even if they were spoken differently. But as the evening - and the laughter - continued, I grew to realize the subtle transformations necessary to fit *Noises Off* for its journey towards the Arctic circle; to become, in fact, *Skuldur* (or babble). Place names, for instance, Icelanders know many parts of Britain, from the Regent Palace Hotel onwards, but Weston-super-Mare, Goolie, Ycevil, Basingstoke, Workshop and Stockton-on-Tees are not generally among them.

The opening rehearsal, then, was switched from Weston-super-Mare to Hastings, familiar to the chess-mad Icelanders for its chess tournaments. Stockton-on-Tees, home of Act Three, became Grimsby - known, if not loved, as a fisherman's port of call. Income tax offices were feebly transferred from meaningless Basingstoke to meaningful Watford, home of a familiar football team. To those whose knowledge of Icelandic was limited to "No", "Yes", "Thank you" and "Thank you very much", any English place name was welcome, changed or not; they were

still known points among furiously turning syllables.

But there were other, odder hurdles to be jumped by the play's intrepid director, Einar Kvale, and her resourceful translator, Arni Ibsen, the theatre's dramaturge. The characters in Michael Frayn's play are performing a trouser-dropping farce called *Nothing On*; in Icelandic the austere climate, however, only an idiot would have nothing on. Farce itself clashes with the Scandinavian fondness for searing gloom, especially at the Reykjavik National Theatre, a forbidding structure known to intimates as "the temple". Most of the comedies staged in Iceland are foreign imports; few have been successful without heavy adaptation.

Furthermore, the country's modest population (at 232,000 people, Iceland is smaller than Plymouth) has never experienced the full fortune of weekly rep, when both play and performer deteriorate as the dismal itinerary advances. What price, then, Frayn's line "We were in weekly rep together in Peebles"? In fact, it was a fair exchange: "Vid vorum saman í leiklaginu... í Felixstowe" - where cargo ships dock. The translator snared further exotic phrases in the burglar's line "It's time to hang up the sawn-off shotgun... It's time to let a younger man take over the ammonia bottle." As violent crime in Iceland is still in its infancy and the Reykjavik jail a quaint tourist sight, the burglar had to be content with hanging up his jenny and relinquishing his wrench.

Yet in the last resort, the language made little difference; it was only the traditional stiffness of first-night audiences and the cast's initial trepidation that kept some laughter back. Iceland's president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, showed no restraint herself: she was observed in her box rocking backwards and forwards, wiping away tears. As the former artistic director of the Reykjavik City Theatre, she doubtless knew that actors, human idiocy, and indeed sardines, are the same world over.



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THE CHANCELLOR'S GOAL

In his speech to the Conservative party conference yesterday Mr Lawson was scornful of the Government's many critics who said four years ago that its economic programme was "politically impossible". He clearly feels that the election result shows sound financial policies to be not only politically possible, but even politically successful.

But is the Government's second term to be just a holding operation or is it to see further progress towards a sound currency? Are inflation and the budget deficit to be stabilised at current levels or does the Government intend to eliminate both completely? At points in his speech Mr Lawson indicated that, in his view, there is more to be done. In particular, he made the emphatic and important statement that "the surest foundation for new jobs is stable prices". This does not constitute an outright commitment to restore price stability, but it is rather more than a preliminary expression of interest in the idea.

So habituated have people become to rising prices that the goal of price stability might seem almost outside the bounds of the economically imaginable. Let alone the politically possible. But Mr Lawson's reminder of how quickly attitudes have shifted on other aspects of policy suggests that public opinion can be moulded in the right direction. His task - and, indeed, that of other senior ministers - is to ease the restoration of price stability by making it quite clear that this is the ultimate objective of the Government's anti-inflationary effort.

The immediate prospect is not particularly good. It seems almost certain that, when the September retail price index is announced on Friday, the twelve-month increase will exceed 5 per cent. The news will not doubt be accompanied by headlines about "higher inflation" which will have some unfavourable impact on this year's pay round.

But there is no need for great concern. Arguably, the context for wage bargaining over the next few months has already been set by the Vauxhall workers' 7½ per cent deal and the miners' probable acceptance of the National Coal Board's 5.2 per cent offer. The majority of settlements should be in the 5 per cent to 6 per cent range, a little less than in the previous round. If productivity growth continues at its recent rate, the underlying increase in industry's costs will moderate further and the numerous forecasts of 7 per cent inflation by the end of 1984 may prove too pessimistic.

More fundamentally, the climate of expectations is more helpful today than four years ago. In 1979 price stability was so remote as to be almost laughable as a policy aim. Indeed, the peak inflation rate recorded under Mrs. Thatcher was over 22 per cent in early 1981. Even if they are rising a little, expectations now are much lower. It is reasonable to ask why reducing inflation from 5 per cent to nil should be so difficult if the rate has already been cut from over 20 per cent to about 5 per cent.

Sceptics may claim that the eradication of inflation will require still more unemployment. This remains to be seen. Mr Lawson pointed out in his speech that employment has started to rise again and that the relatively modest unemployment increase still being recorded reflects growth in the labour force. He might also have said that the original rationale for the Government's approach is that, in the long run, there is no trade-off between inflation and unemployment. Perhaps his remark that "the surest foundation for new jobs is stable prices" could be regarded as a pithy and popularised version of this doctrine.

The Government's critics are undoubtedly on the defensive. In his speech at Blackpool, condensed on the opposite page, Sir Ian Gilmour tried desperately to pin some derogatory label on official policies and managed to come up with "monetarist" and "sound money". Of course, he is right. Official policies are both monetarist and concerned with sound money. So what?

Labels in themselves do not matter one jot. Mr Lawson will be judged by the economy's performance not by his doctrinal purity. But to say this is not to imply that policy should oscillate from week to week without well-defined guidelines. Sir Geoffrey Howe's guidelines were set by the medium-term financial strategy. Mr Lawson's should be determined by the recognition of price stability as a goal to be attained within the lifetime of this parliament.

PRIVATE LINE OR PARTY LINE?

Like political crime, political industrial action is a concept which depends crucially on definition. Any strike in the public sector, against an employer more or less obliged to implement official policy, has an implicit political dimension: that is one reason why it is desirable to limit the areas of employment where that ambiguous position prevails. There is no definition of political action in law, only a definition of the kind of action which can claim immunity against civil suits. The most recent of many revisions of it is in the Employment Act 1982, and it is as yet virtually untouched by being put to use in the courts.

The dispute over privatization at British Telecom, which the Post Office Engineering Union extended yesterday, qualifies as political by almost any criteria. It is not directed against the employer, who plainly has no power whatever to give the guarantees that are sought about what will happen when he ceases to be their employer. It is against the Government, and a third party, Mercury, created by the Government to impart a (rather notional) element of competition into our telecommunications

services. It is therefore most unlikely that a court would find that the action qualified for the legal immunities. The official policy that the union is campaigning against is not simply policy in a general sense: it was outlined in detail in the manifesto on the strength of which the Conservatives were re-elected four months ago. A mandate could hardly be fresher or more specific.

Yet in the eyes of many in the union, divided themselves about the wisdom of the action, the issue is not political, but closely related to their terms and conditions of employment. The union, a moderate one until the present dispute brought left-wingers into control, has opposed privatization from the start, partly from genuine conviction that telecommunications need to be run as a monopoly public service, and partly from the not unjustified fear that if the change comes about its members will be left worse off (an industrial relations response, but one where it happens that no appropriate legal adversary exists as yet).

Regardless of politics and law, the POEU leaders hope that their members are so strategically

placed in the communications network that they can enforce their will even though they are only part of the workforce. Even today, no prudent government would embark on a major act of privatization without taking account of the possibility of such resistance, and its prospects of success. The union is extending the dispute on terms which ensure that a major clash would be ruinously expensive to the union in strike pay. There are already signs that morale in the union is affected by these political factors, the manifesto and the 1982 Act. There is a possibility that Mercury may bring a civil action against the union. If the action was successful, the union's only hope would be to draw the trade union movement into a national confrontation with the government, and the TUC plainly has all too little spirit at present for such a thing. The leaders of the union are making a dangerous gamble in taking a course which can scarcely succeed unless it provokes a constitutional crisis in which they would hope that the government could be brought to its knees by the TUC. All recent evidence points to the opposite. They should call it off.

TOO MUCH OF A SHADOW SHOGUN

He has been variously described as the shadow Shogun, the kingmaker and the eminence grise of Japanese politics. Whatever he may be called, Mr Kakuei Tanaka is still the most powerful and most extraordinary figure in Japanese politics today. A crude, abrasive figure, by the conventional standards of Japanese politics, he worked his way up to the post of Prime Minister in 1972 and thereafter achieved an influence in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party unrivalled by any other faction leader. He has wielded this influence ever since, in spite of the scandals that erupted around him - the financial scandal which led to his resignation as prime minister in 1974 and the Lockheed bribery scandal two years later.

When Mr Tanaka was accused of taking a massive bribe from the Lockheed Corporation, the affair was seen as Japan's own Watergate. As in the case of President Nixon, opinion about Mr Tanaka was divided between those who thought he was at last getting his comeuppance and those who saw him as being unfairly victimised by a jealous establishment. Unlike Mr Nixon, Mr Tanaka was eventually brought to trial.

In Japan the wheels of justice grind slowly, and only now has he been found guilty of the bribery charge against him. Outside observers would be forgiven for regarding the four

year prison sentence handed down on him yesterday as the denouement of the Tanaka drama. But in fact it is not yet the end of the story.

Although Mr Tanaka is no longer a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, he still sits in the Japanese Parliament as an Independent, and his faction is still the largest single faction in the cabinet of the present prime minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone. Indeed, Mr Nakasone owes his present position largely to the behind the scenes support of Mr Tanaka, and ever since he took office last November, the Tanaka affair has been regarded as the single most difficult issue he would have to deal with.

The reason for this has more to do with the labyrinthine internal politics of the ruling Liberal Democrats than with the political opposition in Japan, or with the attitude of the Japanese public. The Japanese public is on the whole inured to the fact that its political leaders work closely, sometimes too closely, with money and business. And while the opposition parties will demand Mr Tanaka's resignation from Parliament, they are divided and poorly represented there, so their views will probably not carry much weight.

Within his Liberal Democratic Party, on the other hand, Mr Nakasone retains his hold on power thanks only to a careful balancing act among the various factions. He now faces the

problem of how to distance himself from Mr Tanaka without losing his support, but sufficiently to satisfy those other faction leaders who have long been hoping for Mr Tanaka's political demise.

During the past few years there has been some uneasiness in Tokyo at the way that the Liberal Democrats conduct their internal affairs. This feeling stems partly from the belief that Japan's political machinery, based as it is on practices that go back to pre-capitalist days, no longer meets the needs of a modern, highly industrialised state. Doubtless there is little hope of Japan's factional politics being superseded, at least for the foreseeable future. But now that the Tanaka trial is over Mr Nakasone and his colleagues could at least make a gesture in the right direction by avoiding a fresh bout of factional infighting.

During the past 11 months Mr Nakasone has made great headway, in particular in his dealings with his Western allies, and this is no time for him to be distracted from his efforts. As for Mr Tanaka, he would do well to take the cue of yesterday's verdict and retire altogether from parliamentary and political life. The signs are that he does not intend to do any such thing, but the fact is that there are limits which politicians in his position should not go beyond, and he has clearly gone beyond them.

and have their blood pressure treated in two years time, telling parents to bring their children's tonsillitis back on the first of next month.

Cash limits on GP services can only come with limited responsibility, the Government cannot demand unlimited liability on limited funds.

If the responsibility of GPs is limited in this way that really will be the destruction of the National

Health Service and private general practice, which has been declining for 35 years, will start the explosive growth recently experienced by private hospitals, BUPA membership and so on.

If the Government wants to privatise the whole of the NHS they should say so openly.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. REES,
4 Church Lane,
Barrowden, Rutland.

Citizens of no mean city

From Mr B. J. Goodchild
Sir, Mr Patrick Jenkin's White Paper totally ignores the concept of London as a geographical, historical and social entity.

I believe that the average London citizen thinks in terms of London more often than of his local borough. He is far more likely to describe himself as a Londoner than a man of Brent. He may live in the suburbs but be keenly interested in what goes on in the West End.

He does not want transport or other systems which stop short at meaningless boundaries, nor does he care that in travelling from Oxford Circus to Holborn he is passing from Westminster into Camden.

I find it inconceivable that a capital city in which many still take pride should be without its own elected council.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. GOODCHILD,
15 Wessons House,
Ashburton Road,
Croydon, Surrey.
October 8.

British bloodstock

From the Chairman of The National Council on Gambling

Sir, In your leading article on the bloodstock industry (October 1), you state that racing "last year produced £272m in revenue for the Exchequer, of which less than £19m was returned through the levy". This is not so.

The facts are that the money which the industry receives from the horserace betting levy is obtained from the punter and not the Exchequer. Whatever the Revenue might or might not be persuaded to do to support the racing industry, the punter is already obliged to do so through the levy. Furthermore, the contribution of the punter constitutes hypochondria, which ensures a subsidy to racing in a manner certainly not available to industry generally.

It is, of course, argued that without a racing industry there would be no betting and thus it is in the punter's interest to subsidise racing. Indeed the argument is even extended to imply that the profits from horserace betting really belong to the racing industry. However, this is as rational an argument as to suggest that the proceeds from betting on race outcome of a leadership contest in a particular political party belong to that party.

Clearly, the proceeds from gambling of any type belong to the punter and the gambling industry concerned and should rightly be shared by them, subject to the right of the Revenue to impose taxes. While most punters now probably accept the levy as an integral part of their gambling expenses, it is important that its true basis should be recognized.

Yours faithfully,
E. MORAN, Chairman,
The National Council on Gambling,
26 Bedford Square, W.C1.
October 5.

Cenotaph ceremony

From Mr Hubert Chesshyre, Chester Herald

Sir, Captain Eric Lowden, writing of the Cenotaph ceremony (Oct 7), comments on the fact that the representatives of the armed services come last in the procession of wreath bearers.

If it is of any comfort I should like to remind them that in many ceremonial processions in this country, whether civil or religious, the most important people walk at the end.

If further comfort is needed, they should remember that in the world to come they are first shall be last and the last first.

Yours truly,
HUBERT CHESHYRE,
Chester Herald,
The College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
October 8.

Church membership

From Dr Roger Homan

Sir, Between the lines of Brother Martin's letter on Church membership and the new forms of service (September 28) there is an ominous acceptance of the disaffection suffered by those many of the faithful upon whom the *Alternative Service Book* has been imposed.

Not only has ASB failed to attract new members to the Church, it has even lost many of the old. The survey conducted by me in the archdeaconry of Chichester showed clear correlations between electoral roll memberships and changes in the forms of service: between 1975 and 1980 those parishes changing to Series 3, the most modern form then available, suffered the greatest losses, whereas those persisting with the *Book of Common Prayer* or with Series 2 held their own or enjoyed slight increases in membership.

Brother Martin reminds us that Canon Jasper, of York, is sanguine in the face of such losses. Canon Dunlop, of Salisbury, has gone further in actually welcoming the prospect of smaller congregations. "There is such a thing as dead wood in a congregation," he writes in the *Church Times*. "It would sometimes be better to have a smaller number of really committed Christians than a somewhat larger service." It is clear, then, that the Church is designed not for a nation's Church but for an introspective and exclusive sect; and their champions are hastening the day when the Church of England takes on that character.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HOMAN,
Wistaria Cottage,
Maresfield,
East Sussex.
September 29.

The human face of Conservatism

From Lord Renton, QC

Sir, After their big defeat in the general election, it is not surprising that the Labour Party should make strenuous attacks on the Prime Minister who, more than anyone, caused that defeat.

In doing so they stop at nothing: for example, they vehemently criticise the overall reduction by less than one per cent of the huge National Health Service staffs, which increased by 200,000 between 1971 and 1981, and now exceed 815,000. This is said by Socialists to reveal a lack of concern on her part.

What is surprising, however, is that an experienced Tory like Lord Alport (October 6) should accuse her in sweeping terms, contrary to the evidence. Her deep concern for individual sufferers is well known.

When she was Secretary of State for Education she at once introduced the Education (Handicapped Children) Act, 1970, and in the last Parliament, under her guidance and with the support of all parties, two more Education Acts and the Mental Health Acts between them gave new hope for mentally handicapped people. The Government are giving some help to get mentally handicapped children out of unsuitable long-stay hospitals.

More is now being spent in real terms on the welfare state than ever before, but it is vital to ensure that progress achieved is not reversed by inflation, whether caused by over-spending or by unjustified rises in incomes.

If the Prime Minister did not make that plain to those who disagree with her, she would indeed be guilty of what Lord Alport calls

"a lack of sympathy for those for whom the welfare state... provides." But thank goodness, she does speak plainly and robustly - and in defence of the welfare state. If some people can't take it, she should not be condemned.

Yours faithfully,
RENTON,
House of Lords.
October 10.

From Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, My political colleague and former school contemporary, Lord Alport, has again written to you, Sir, (October 6) in an attack on the Government. Last time (February 21, 1980) it was on policy, and I replied (February 23, 1980); this time it is on the Prime Minister's style of leadership as well as on policies. I again feel impelled to reply.

There is no "narrow conformity which she demands". I was one of her earliest supporters and I have always spoken out on issues with absolute freedom and frankness without feeling any constraint. There was much more control in Mr Heath's period as leader of the party and prime minister.

Far from there being "increasing disenchantment with her personality" it was her strong personality and qualities of leadership which drew so many working class Labour supporters to the Tory cause in the last election.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons.
October 6.

Moral values in the Parkinson affair

From Mrs Patricia Coady

Sir, It seems (*The Times*, October 11) that if you have committed an indiscretion you may be Secretary of State for Trade and Industry but not Foreign Secretary or Chairman of the Conservative Party.

Is this an indication of a governmental sliding scale of moral values or a reflection of their true attitude to the importance of industry? Or both?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA COADY,
4 The Mead,
Beckenham, Kent.
October 11.

From Mr John H. Gladwin
Sir, I refer to your leader of October 7.

May I answer your question as to why the public expects its leaders to preserve the outward forms of a morality which, you claim, it no longer practises. It is simply because we do expect our leaders to demonstrate by example a fundamental of leadership - the high moral standards to which, I pray, the majority of us do, and will continue to, aspire.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. GLADWIN,
Normanhurst,
Warwick Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
October 7.

From Dr G. D. Wassermann

Sir, As a Tory voter I have been deeply impressed by the present generous public attitude towards one of the greatest British statesmen ever, David Lloyd George. His long-lasting affair with his mistress, during his marriage, did not seriously belittle the status of this liberal political giant.

Only recently the BBC serialised his life on TV, including his private affair, and repeated the series, presumably because of public acclaim for true greatness. So why

should, in this day and age, this nation be deprived of the governmental service of a man as outstandingly able as Mr Cecil Parkinson, who did no worse than Lloyd George? Are there double standards?

Yours faithfully,
GERHARD D. WASSERMANN,
21 Oakhurst Drive,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
October 11.

From Mrs C. V. Longrigg
Sir, Is it now considered much worse to give up all adulterous connexion than to abandon a wife and family?

Is it no longer possible to say to an adulterer who has seen the error of his/her ways, "Neither do I condemn thee, without incurring the accusation of condoning - even encouraging - adultery?"

Am I alone in finding the "morality" of the 1980s confusing? Yours faithfully,
C. V. LONGRIGG,
23 Norham Road,
Oxford.
October 11.

From Sir John Colville
Sir, Few of our island kith and kin are totally immune to sin. Yet, when some man the public know

is caught *flagrante delicto* With feigned regret and hidden spite The sepulchres are painted white. Sometimes the plea's security; Sometimes it's national purity. Unleashing bloodhounds:

For those who've not themselves been caught.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN COLVILLE,
The Close,
Broughton,
Stockbridge,
Hampshire.
October 10.

Financing pensions

From Mr F. W. Bowden

Sir, Many aspects of the naive of Messrs. Vinson's and Chappell's proposals (September 28) to reorganise occupational pension provision in this country have been pointed out by others. However, one point that I do not think has been made sufficiently strongly is the error in assuming that if the monolithic pension funds are dismantled they will automatically be replaced by more worthy and efficient individual investments.

Surely the more likely scenario is the launch of a vast marketing exercise by the insurance companies, resulting in even greater monolithic investment concentration.

Also, it will be the pensioner who will have to pay for this exercise and the other expenses of these organisations who have the ability to reward themselves without revealing the extent to which they do so.

The administration costs of private occupational pension schemes are kept firmly under control by the sponsoring employer as it is his money being spent. Not so the relative profligacy of the insurance companies, where it is the money of someone else, who is normally not even allowed to know how much is being spent until it is far too late to influence it.

Gibraltar shipping

From the Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Gibraltar

Sir, As Minister entrusted with responsibility for the port of Gibraltar, I was very concerned at the inaccuracies in the article in *The Times* of September 28 entitled "Gibraltar ship concern". I would be very grateful if you would kindly publish this letter in order to clarify the various issues raised.

Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, there is no such thing as a Gibraltar flag in respect of ship registration. Instead, vessels registered in Gibraltar fly the Red Ensign in exactly the same way as the vessels registered here conform to the requirements of the UK Merchant Shipping Act, just as they would if registered at Southampton or London.

Forty-eight vessels are at present registered in Gibraltar. The majority

Messrs. Vinson and Chappell are concerned to increase the general wealth of the pensioner. Their proposals are at best not going to change much and at worst are more likely to lead to unnecessary and unjustified spending along the way.

Yours faithfully,
F. W. BOWDEN,
55 Somerset Road,
New Barnet,
Hertfordshire.
September 29.

Ships in the water

From Mr J. A. H. Paffett

Sir, Your correspondent, David Laurence Giles (October 1), cites the success of the Australian challenger for the America's Cup to show that the design of hulls is as much a matter of art as of science; and from this he goes on to deride the work of William Froude, the pioneer of scientific ship hydrodynamics.

Naval architecture, in common with other branches of engineering, is indeed an art, but a useful art, which depends heavily upon the discoveries of science for its success. An important factor in the challenger's victory was the lift-to-drag ratio of the keel, a quantity scientifically tested in the Dutch ship tank.

are under 500 tons, most having been previously registered at UK or Scandinavian ports.

Gibraltar is not a Solas convention country. Instead, five major international classification societies have been authorised regularly to inspect vessels and issue certificates of survey to those that comply with the requirements of the UK Merchant Shipping Act and the Gibraltar Merchant Shipping Ordinance and which meet convention standards.

These societies are of the highest repute and all are internationally recognised for certification purposes by the UK Department of Transport.

The Gibraltar Government does not, and indeed cannot, offer a flag of convenience. Moreover, it is actively concerned to maintain adequate safety standards and conditions of employment in its shipping fleet.

Hurtful language of service

From Ms Jean Mayland

Sir, You are quite mistaken in your third leader of October 8. We cannot, we must not, erect a kind of cordon around "religious language". "Religious language" is special. It speaks of the things of very deepest meaning and because of that it must be the best we can achieve.

For many women the language of worship is increasingly hurtful and offensive in its use of "man" to describe us all. The purpose has not been to assert the superiority of the male sex, but that has been one of the harmful results, as recent studies of language and its effects have established. For many women and men the overtly masculine images used for God are inadequate and also give a distorted "image" of God's being.

The book published by "One" is more successful in suggesting ways of referring to human beings than it is in suggesting new images for God. This is generally true of all work in this area. Yet this does not mean that we should give up. On the contrary, we must work harder. We need to recover "feminine" images and metaphors from the Scriptures and tradition and also search for new ones to put alongside the old and enrich the vision.

Some of the worship material used by the World Council of Churches in its recent assembly in Vancouver was very exciting in this respect.

I served on the commission which produced the *Alternative Service Book* and I acknowledge our failures in this area. No one took me seriously when I raised the matter of "sexist" language. Only a few years later the situation is very different. Now the subject is taken increasingly seriously by women and men of all denominations. Not even a *Times* leader can hold back the tide.

I remain yours faithfully,
JEAN M. MAYLAND,
3 Minister Court,
York.
October 9.

From Ms Pauline Fielding and Mr Peter West

Sir, In our view your leader writer (October 8) misses the central point of the booklet, *Bad Language in Church*. The issue is not that the use of masculine pronouns for God is insulting to women, but that the exclusive use of masculine language to address God over-emphasises maleness to the detriment of God's femininity, and can therefore downgrade women.

We believe that this lopsidedness is not present in the Scriptures, where we find God spoken of as one "who brought you to birth", who "carried you on eagle's wings", who "cries like a woman in labour", who longs to "gather your children like a hen gathers her brood", and whose spirit is described (in the Old Testament at least) by a feminine word.

Yours sincerely,
PAULINE FIELDING,
Chairperson,
PETER WEST, Vice-chairperson,
One for Christian Renewal,
19 Stevenson Road,
Shepherds Bush, W12.
October 9.

From Mrs C. I. C. Bosanquet
Sir, Your leader on "Our Father..." (October 8) is over-paternal. If there is real need for inclusive words, especially pronouns, in religious language, surely posterity would welcome indications that our generation was seeking them, however clumsy the initial attempts.

I believe there is a true need for inclusive words, and you tacitly come near to admitting this. To erect a "special kind of cordon" around past and present religious writings would deny our living language the possibility of growth. This would eventually be resented by posterity.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA S. BOSANQUET,
White House,
Rock Moor,
Alnwick,
Northumberland.
October 10.

The tank staff will, I am sure, be the first to acknowledge their indebtedness to William Froude - who, incidentally, was backed by the admiralty of the day in setting up the first ever ship model testing tank.

It is nonsense to say that the forces which govern the flow of water past a hull are "almost as much of a mystery as they have ever been", and a designer who adopts this attitude to the guidance of scientific ship hydrodynamics can expect to join the rule-of-thumb boatwrights of yesteryear.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. H. PAFFETT,
1 Chestnut Avenue,
Chichester,
West Sussex.
October 1.

In the circumstances I find the imputations contained within the article and those attributed to a spokesman of the National Union of Seamen unwarranted and damaging.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. CANEPA,
Minister for Economic Development and Trade,
Gibraltar.
September 29.

A dressing down

From Mr Martin Lynch

Sir, The status of the two gentlemen, in the fashion advertisement (Mr Philip Lee, October 8) is rendered even more doubtful by the fact that one of them is wearing a white tie with a dinner jacket.

Yours truly,
MARTIN LYNCH,
29 Boleyn Road, W5.
October 8.

Hospital cuts

From Dr H. E. G. Rees

Sir, My Nigel Harris (October 7) asks why general practitioner services should not bear cuts like the hospital service. The answer is simple.

General practitioners have an open-ended commitment to their patients; they cannot use a waiting list to limit their work as hospitals do. Cash limits on drugs would mean doctors telling people to come

[illegible]

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
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London WC1X 8EZ
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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 692.1 down 6.1

FT 100: 81.40 down 0.26

Bargains: 20,024

Databases: 20,024

New York Dow Jones

Average: 1268 up 2.86

Tokyo Nikkei: 10,563.25 up 70.18

Hong Kong: 12,563.25 up 70.18

Singapore: 12,563.25 up 70.18

Amsterdam: 12,563.25 up 70.18

Sydney: AO Index: 695.3 down 9.4

Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 963.70 down 8.60

Brussels: General Index: 128.86

Paris: CAC Index: 144.7 up 0.3

Zurich: SKA General Index: 289.6 up 0.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.5040 down 1/4 cent

Dm 8.9350 up 0.0350

FF 12.01 up 0.0950

Yen 352.50 up 2.50

Dollar Index: 126.5 up 0.8

DM 2.5105

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.5025

Dollar DM 2.6085

INTERNATIONAL

ECU/D 57.5342

SDR/D 70.4894

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:

Bank base rate 9%

Finance houses base rate 10%

Discount market loans week fixed 9%

3 month interbank 9% - 9%

Euro-currency rates:

3 month dollar 9% - 9%

3 month DM 5% - 5%

3 month FF 14% - 14%

US rates:

Bank prime rate 11.00%

Fed funds 9%

Treasury long bond 10 3/4% - 10 3/4%

ECU/D Fixed Rate Sterling

Export Finance Scheme IV

Average reference rate for interest period September 7 to October 4, 1983 inclusive: 9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):

Oct 13 \$395.75 pm \$394.75

Oct 12 \$394.50 - 395.25

Oct 11 \$394.50 - 395.25

New York latest: \$402.45

Krugerrand (per coin):

\$405.75 - 406.25 £270 - 271

Sovereigns (new):

\$93 - 94 (£62 - 62.75)

Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interlines: BSG International, Cive Discount Holdings, Costa

Pines, Empire Stores (Bradford), Farner Electronics, Frank G. Gates, James (Maurice)

Industries, John Mowlem & Co, New Central Waterstrand, Newmarket (1983) (third quarter), Office and Electronic

Machines, Shires Investment, Swedish Match AB (eight months), Time Products, Finales Druck Holdings, Highland Electronics Group, John

Mauders Construction, CH Pearce & Sons, Photo-Me International, F. W. Thorpe.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual Meetings: Dixons Group, Institute of Directors, 118 Pall Mall, SW1 (noon), Stoddard Holdings, Glenpark Works, Elderslie, Renfrewshire (noon), Clark (Matthew), Central Conference Centre, 90 Central Street EC1 (noon), Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, 16 Overgate, Dundee (11am).

NOTEBOOK

Pretax profits at Bejam, the frozen food and kitchen appliances group, improved by only 2.5 per cent to £12m during the year to July 2, largely because food prices fell. But sales of freezers and refrigerators rose strongly. The final dividend is increased from 1.50p net to 1.75p net, making 3.25p net for the year compared with 2.75p.

Aston Mining, in which the Malaysia Mining Corporation is the major shareholder, is raising A\$70m (A\$33m) by a rights issue and private placement. The cash will go towards Aston's share of the cost of the Argyle diamond venture in Western Australia. The rights issue terms are 4 shares for every 10 held at A\$1 a share, half paid.

Ecuador has signed agreements for a \$3.12m new loan and the rescheduling of about \$1.4 billion of debt, principal repayments will be due between next month and December, 1983.

Pound slips half a cent but gains against European currencies

Dollar rises on fears of oil supply crisis in the Middle East

The dollar made sharp gains yesterday and sterling also rose against European currencies as fears of renewed unrest in the Middle East continued to overshadow stock markets and foreign exchange.

Iran's threat to cut off oil supplies passing through the Straits of Hormuz and fears that the Iran/Iraq war would intensify were again decisive factors in the strength of the dollar after several weeks of weakness.

The dollar rose from DM 2.5865 to DM 2.6150 during the day, and also gained against all other currencies, including sterling, which finished down half a cent at \$1.5040.

The pound's overall value remained unchanged but this masked gains against leading European currencies and the yen. The pound gained 3 pence against the Deutsche Mark and finished above 12 French francs.

Dr. Mansour Otaibi, the oil minister of the United Arab

Emirates, who is also president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, added a new twist to the heightened tension in the oil market by claiming that the West was trying to "put an end" to Opec.

Despite market fears about the prospect of a new oil supply crisis, oil traders and governments continue to play down the likely impact on oil prices and supplies even if the Iranians were to carry out their threat to block the Straits of Hormuz.

Prices of cargoes of crude oil on the spot market remained almost unchanged yesterday, with both Arab light and North Sea Forties crude still being

quoted at a discount to the official term contract price.

Companies and government officials point out that the amount of oil exported from the Gulf has fallen sharply in recent years. It now accounts for only 20 per cent of free world supplies, compared with approximately 33 per cent three years ago.

Thomson has also agreed to carry Clyde's share of development costs on its remaining 10 per cent stake in Balmoral. The practical effect is that Thomson will now pay for 16 per cent of the field's estimated development cost of \$700m.

The field, one of the smallest to be developed in the North Sea, is operated by Sun Oil, the American oil company, and is expected to receive government development approval soon, leading to oil production in 1987.

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Stocks of oil are also plentiful, amounting to more than 90 days of supplies, while several oil-producing countries both inside and outside Opec have spare productive capacity which might become available in a crisis.

The International Energy Agency is continuing to monitor the situation closely, however, and traders acknowledge the heightened Middle East tension, which sparked a series of unconfirmed rumours early yesterday about tankers being blocked or even sunk in the Gulf.

Dr. Otaibi's remarks underline that Opec itself is more concerned about the prospect of a further fall in oil prices caused by the renewed softness in the market.

While ruling out a new Arab oil embargo as impractical in the present market conditions, he said that Opec would not hesitate to undercut non-Opec producers if there was a new threat to stable oil prices.

Thomson buys £7.5m Clyde oil stake

Another reshuffle of ownership in the North Sea was foreshadowed yesterday when the International Thomson Organisation announced the purchase of a slice of the Balmoral field and other North Sea prospects owned by Clyde Petroleum and the Bowater group.

The complex deal comes soon after BP's controversial plan to auction part of the Forties field, and provides further evidence of the tax-motivated restructuring of the North Sea industry that

analysts have been expecting. Yesterday's deal involves the purchase by Thomson North Sea of an 8 per cent interest in North Sea block 16/21 - which contains the 70 million barrel Balmoral field - from Clyde Petroleum, with part of Clyde's interest in six other North Sea blocks.

Clyde will receive £7.5m from the deal, of which £4.5m will go to Bowater, who is also selling its interest in the same blocks to Thomson using Clyde as an intermediary.

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Guinness Peat in £21m trust deal

Guinness Peat, the banking and financial group which has been struggling back to health, is strengthening its highly-leveraged balance sheet by buying an investment trust, Moorside Trust.

GP has agreed a share offer valuing Moorside at £21.6m or 11p a share - 10 per cent above net asset value. This is backed by a cash offer of £19.6m, the bulk of which involves Morgan Grenfell underwriting GP shares.

The deal is in effect a disguised rights issue and will transform GP's balance sheet, increasing the group's net worth by at least £16m to £59m and halving borrowings from about £32m to £16m.

Mr Alastair Morton, chairman, said it was the final step in restoring the group and Guinness Peat could now concentrate on consolidating and developing existing businesses. "The purpose of this deal is to give ourselves flexibility, not to rush out and buy things," he added.

Two years ago, Guinness Peat suffered huge losses in commodities, followed by a collapsed bondmarket row between its founder, Lord Kinnaird, and the former chairman, Mr Edmund Dell. Its problems were further compounded by a £15m bad debt to

Speculation of Mirror newspaper hive-off

By Derek Pain
City Correspondent

Reed International, the newspaper group, is believed to be planning to copy Trafalgar House and merge its newspaper interests.

There was strong speculation in the City yesterday that Reed, which is known to be keen to unload the Mirror newspaper group, was preparing to announce next week that it had decided to sell off shares in a straightforward demerger with existing shareholders getting free shares in the newspaper enterprise.

Chubb chief resigns after board dispute

By Jeremy Warner

Mr Brian Lamming is leaving his job as managing director of the security systems group Chubb, because of a disagreement with the board on the way in which the future development of the group should be undertaken. He intends to seek compensation.

Mr Lamming, who is on a three-year contract at a basic of £55,000 a year, joined the company only two and a half years ago from Thomas Tilling. He will be succeeded by Mr Philip Crossland who joined the board in September from the group's offshoot Chubb Fire.

Shares rise after weak opening

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks recovered from their weak opening, yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 3 points. It was down 1.42 turning in early trading, marginally positive later.

Volume was about 31,740,000 shares compared with Tuesday's 37,280,000.

Sunlight rejects fresh Brengreen bid

By Philip Robinson

Brengreen (Holdings), the office cleaning and refuse collection group, yesterday increased its offer for Sunlight Services, the laundry company. The new bid values Sunlight at £36.5m.

But Sunlight which has consistently spurned Brengreen's approaches, rejected the bid, claiming it was being made with over-rated paper which, if accepted, might give Sunlight shareholders a roller-coaster ride.

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Plea to close Kei Chong

Hongkong (AP-Dow Jones) - The Registrar General yesterday petitioned the High Court to wind up Kei Chong Home Services, Life Insurance, controlled indirectly by the troubled Carian Group.

Kei Chong is a wholly-owned unit of China Underwriters Life and General Insurance, a subsidiary of Carian Investments. The Registrar General earlier filed a winding up petition against China Underwriters.

The Registrar General said that as provisional liquidator he would try to dispose of the company as a going concern in the interests of policy holders.

The petition against Kei Chong will be heard on November 9.

The government move comes after the filing of winding up petitions against Carian Investments, a publicly - quoted company, and its private parent company, Carian Holdings, by several banks.

Exco pursues brokerage holding

The bargaining between Britain's leading institutions and stockbrokers over who buys whom and at what price intensified yesterday when money broker Exco International confirmed that it is continuing talks with three brokers.

Exco join Mercantile House confirming that it is in talks with leading brokers, although similar meetings have been going on between the institutions and brokers for months.

The partners of most of the leading brokers were in meetings last night as the pace of the talks increased.

The talks take on increased significance now that the Stock Exchange membership has voted to accept the Government's deal to keep the Exchange out of the Restrictive Practices Court.

Among the front runners to attract institutional investment are James Capel, Springmount Kemp-Coo and Phillips & Drew.

Exco has been after a brokerage stake - the maximum permitted is 29.9 per cent - since acquiring W. I. Carr's overseas business in May, last year.

Several senior partners of the leading brokers were anxious yesterday to play down the significance of the talks.

One partner said that the most efficient "are looking to the future. Not trying to find an investor." He then refused to say whether his firm were involved in the Exco talks.

The brokers will need some huge cash injections if they are to compete with the big American houses.

£15m deal ensures share in Gammon construction

Trafalgar joins Jardine in Hongkong

Jardine Matheson is selling a 50 per cent stake in its engineering and construction subsidiary Gammon (Hongkong) to Trafalgar House for between £15m and £20m.

The exact price that Trafalgar will pay depends on an audit of Gammon as of September 30 this year.

Mr Simon Keswick effectively took over at Jardine in June pledged to reduce Jardine's debt from more than 80 per cent to 60 per cent of equity.

His first move was to sell a

majority stake in one of Jardine's most profitable offshoots, Rennie's Consolidated Holdings, the South African hotel and travel industry arm of Jardine, for \$95m.

Gammon is a leading construction company in Hongkong with subsidiaries in Singapore and Malaysia.

It will become the main civil engineering and construction unit in the Far East for both Jardine and Cimentation, the civil engineering division of Trafalgar House.

This represents another step in our policy of forming regional joint ventures with substantial partners who can

contribute specialized international expertise.

Cimentation has been trying to enter the Far East market for some time, but in spite of winning the contract to supply steel vessels and structures for the Castle Peak power station in Hongkong and providing structural steel for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation through Redpath Dorman Long, Cimentation feels it has not been sufficiently established in the Far East.

Fourth generation 'taipan' of Keswick family firm

Mr Simon Keswick, 41, is the fourth generation of the Keswick family to wear the mantle of taipan or head of the house at Jardine.

Since the Keswicks of Dumfries married into the Jardine family in the middle of the last century they have maintained a hold on the company founded in 1832 by Mr William Jardine and Mr James Matheson, two Scots who found a neat profit in running contraband opium into China.

The two brothers were powerful enough to persuade the British Government to

take Hongkong as part of the settlement after the Opium Wars.

The company which now has interests in construction, consumer finance, natural resources, property and freight services went public in 1960.

Two years later Mr Simon Keswick, who was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, joined the family company, where his father Sir William Keswick was chairman.

Mr Simon Keswick served Jardine in North America, Hongkong, Japan and

City Editor's Comment

Model that failed to fit the mould

The Treasury does not appear to great advantage in the autopsy, published today by the National Economic Development Council, of the great "model-rigging" row which erupted between the trade unions and Sir Geoffrey Howe, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a council meeting in April last year.

The unions had asked the Treasury to use its model of the economy to look at what would happen if the Government increased spending on investment, as they and the employers had been urging.

Naturally, they expected the model to find in their favour, previous experience had suggested that it would. Instead the Chancellor presented them with figures purporting to show that higher government spending would have only the briefest impact in stimulating the economy. Within five years output and employment would actually be lower than otherwise. Inflation would be much worse.

This was obviously a happy result for the Chancellor, since it vindicated the Government's economic strategy. But it provoked howls of outrage from the unions who alleged that the model had been fixed.

The Neddly study puts a rather more sophisticated gloss on the matter. What happened, Neddly says, is that the Treasury had just amended its model. The new version incorporated much stronger "crowding out" effects than before.

Fiscal expansion led, through higher wages, to more rapid inflation, dampening consumer spending and worsening competitiveness. And the extra government borrowing pushed up interest rates, "crowding out" borrowing for private investment and driving the exchange rate higher, so that industry was priced out of international markets.

"Crowding out" was exacerbated because the Treasury insisted on peg-

ging money supply growth - which would be a strange thing for a government set on fiscal expansion to do.

But the most recent version of the Treasury model has apparently toned down these effects. "It now seems unlikely that crowding out and inflation would in fact be as severe as presented to council in April 1982", Neddly says.

On the contrary, output (though not employment) is still higher after five years than it would otherwise have been. Inflation is also higher but, not by much.

Neddly also takes the opportunity to do some simulations of its own on the newest version of the Treasury model which bear an interesting similarity to projections recently done for The Times.

After testing the effects both of a government boost to demand and an increase in world trade, its paper concludes: "There is little doubt that expansion of demand, whether unilaterally or in conjunction with other countries, can result in output higher than otherwise for 3 to 4 years."

But inflation rises and the output gains fade away. Crowding out effects, while weaker than the Treasury said last year, still operate.

Neddly has also looked at some supply side improvements, notably lower pay deals, which it says would boost growth, raise employment and cut inflation throughout the following five years.

A marginal improvement in export performance coupled with lower earnings could reduce unemployment by well over 200,000 within three years, it says.

Large scale expansion of demand cannot bring unemployment down permanently without some means of controlling inflation.

"But a better supply side performance means very high unemployment is nonetheless not inevitable", Neddly concludes. There is some comfort there for both unions and the Chancellor.

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Thermax in merger with metal firm

By Andrew Cornall

V. W., the London-based sheet metal fabricator, the shares of which were suspended at 70p on the USM in June, yesterday announced details of a merger with Thermax, an unquoted glass processing group.

The deal, which has to be approved by V. W. shareholders on November 4, effectively amounts to a reverse takeover of V. W. by Thermax.

Last year V. W. reported losses of £59,779, after tax and extraordinary items, against profit of £629,550 in the previous year. The newly-merged company will be chaired by Mr Harry Jackson, an associate director of GEC, and will be renamed V. W. Thermax. The group will have an annual turnover of £8m and will employ 370 people.

Under the terms of the deal, which has been agreed by the two boards, V. W. will acquire Thermax for £3.75m. A total of 4.75 million shares in the new company will then be offered for sale by tender at a minimum price of £1 per share.

The board of Thermax indicated yesterday that the merger was a quick and simple route towards a stock market listing. V. W. shareholders find that their shares which were suspended at 70p in June are now being offered at a minimum of £1 each.

Mr Jackson, the new chairman of the company, will preside over a board which includes joint representation from the boards of both V. W. and Thermax. He said yesterday that the group is keen to expand its operations to become a more broadly based industrial holding group.

V. W. supplies fabrications to Ford, Foster Wheeler, Marconi and Plessey. Thermax is in the process of reorganizing and increasing capacity in response to anticipated demand for glass products for domestic appliances and car sunroofs. In the six months to June 30, 1983, Thermax made pretax profits of £144,000 on a turnover of £1.8m.

Fitch Lovell has completed the sale of its marine farming offshoot Golden Sea Produce to Norsk Hydro.

Fitch has received a payment on completion of £1.7m cash.

Lower food prices stunt Bejam's growth

BEJAM
Year to 27.83
Pretax profit £12m (£11.7m)
Stated earnings 12.64p (12.49p)
Turnover £230m (£220m)
Net final dividend 1.75p (1.50p)
Share price 146 Yield 3.2
Dividend payable 21.11.83

Bejam and the market have grown blithely accustomed to the frozen food company's double-digit profits growth, so a sharp slowdown to only 2.5 per cent was almost bound to cause the share price to slip back. But the 3p fall owes more to history than to the future.

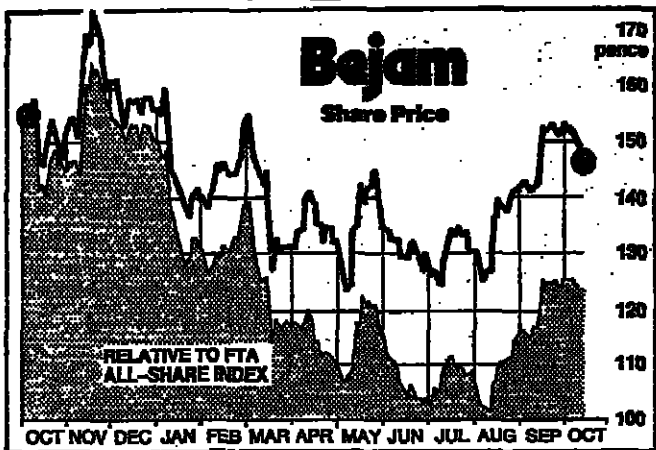
The main reason for Bejam's uncharacteristically sluggish profit growth was an extraordinary one: food prices fell by 0.2 per cent in the second half. Yet barely four months after the year end, the price inflation in food is back to 7 per cent.

Lower or even falling food prices, the competitive pace being set for much of the year by unusually cheap fresh vegetables, do not narrow margins, but they do reduce profit volumes. So turnover was up by 11 per cent, less than half the historic trend, and food sales rose by almost the same amount to £230m.

This figure would have been even lower had it not been for the 14 stores opened during the year. These accounted for 6 per cent of the increase in retail food sales, an element of which was derived from the tendency of bigger stores to make proportionately more money.

By the end of the financial year Bejam had 195 stores, should have five more before 1983 is out.

Although food remains the biggest profit source - and should be the driving force



behind improved performance in the current year - appliance sales have become more and more important.

Freezers, microwave ovens and refrigerators contributed £17.7m to turnover, compared with £13.7m in 1981-2. About a third of freezer sales are replacements, and since the average life of a freezer is thought to be 10 years, this should be a continuing steady source of revenue. Moreover, the percentage of British homes with a freezer is expected to rise to 80 per cent.

Bejam is unique as a supplier of bulk frozen food, and new lines such as frozen sandwiches have been well received. Its 10 per cent of the market, roughly the same as that held by J. Sainsbury, and its bigger stores in strategic locations are taking Bejam increasingly into the retail, single item market.

A price earnings ratio of 18.25 per cent, full taxed, is below past levels. With full-year profits of as much as £14.5m in prospect, Bejam should recover quickly from "negative inflation" in food.

Ashton Mining

London investors whose blood pressure has just subsided after their outrage at being excluded from the Western Mining share placing cold feel their health to be endangered again by the Ashton Mining capital-raising exercise.

Of the A\$70m needed to complete the funding of the giant Argyle diamond development, A\$14m has been raised by a private placement among Australian institutions who have subscribed to 10.8m shares at A\$1.30 each, cum rights. The closing Sydney price was A\$1.70.

Of course, shareholders outside Australia will benefit from the other part of the exercise. A rights issue of four shares for every 10 held at A\$1 half paid will bring in the remaining A\$56m.

It is remotely possible that some Australian institutions will not exercise their full rights, but it does appear that London investors must be resigned to

the idea that naturalization, exclusive of those from painlessly profitable placings.

In agreeing to the placement and rights issue, the Australian authorities had two objectives in mind. The first was to remove

the final obstacles to developing Argyle, which in three years could be producing 25m carats annually or half present world output. Ashton has 38.2 per cent of the Argyle Joint Venture, an unincorporated partnership in which CRA holds 56.8 per cent. Ashton had to find A\$20m as its share of the recent agreement with the Western Australian Government. Without that, the recent exercise need have raised only A\$50m, that being the equity element in A\$260m which is Ashton's portion of the total project cost.

The second aim was to reduce the holding in Ashton of Malaysia Mining Corporation and Tanaka Consolidated. After the issue and placement, their stakes will fall from 50.1 per cent and 9.5 per cent to 46.3 per cent and 8.7 per cent respectively.

These holdings will be whittled away further over the next few years. Nevertheless, Argyle and Ashton are crucial to both these companies, not least as MMC diversifies away from tin.

Laundries

Never has there been more interest in getting things clean - dustbins, hospitals, Middle East clinics, and major hotel chains.

Collectively, the new Government-created markets for private cleaning firms to move in where civil servants

formerly reigned supreme is worth £3.4 billion.

In part, it explains why laundry and office cleaning companies have been busily scrapping with one another for more than a year.

Sunlight Services first indicated the belief that big private contracts might be won more easily by large companies with a takeover bid for Johnson Group. A rival offer by Initial was included in the subsequent Monopolies Commission report which blocked both bids.

The report made clear that the Government would not allow any mergers between the top six laundry companies (the report calls them textile maintenance companies).

But the Government has clearly allowed free market forces to operate among office cleaning bids for landladies. This week, Pritchard Services was allowed to win control of Spring Grove and Broomings to pursue Sunlight Holdings without Government interference.

With that clearance, Brengreen raised its takeover bid to from £31m to £36m yesterday.

Brengreen's offer will lapse if it fails to secure control within a fortnight. The nub is the future performance - of Brengreen's share price: it is currently 99p, but according to Sunlight, its value remains suspect.

At that price it values Sunlight shares at 30p, against 18p before the bid. It is a level at which Brengreen claims institutional shareholders might become restless. But Sunlight has yet to issue its half time profits, normally announced three weeks ago, and these might well include a forecast for the year.

CPU Computers

CPU Computers
Year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £1,428,000 (£912,000)
Stated earnings 4.4p (3.5p)
Turnover £18.1m (£9.8m)
Single Net Dividend 0.35p
Share price 113p
Dividend payable 2.11.83

The problem with CPU Computers is its name. It has locked into the very view the City has of computer companies while it is, in fact, a minnow equivalent of Electrocomponents, whose growth formula CPU admires enough to copy.

It launches today its first small business computer, the Octopus, backed by a TV campaign. Its two US-trained executives, Mr Tom Fitzpatrick and Mr David Jones, frankly admit that if sales are a disaster it will not affect profits.

That is because the bulk of profits derive from component and peripheral equipment sales (VDU units, discs, tapes, for example).

The shares, at 113p, deserve a much higher rating because the 10-year-old company is conservatively managed.

growth from a black bank account and current sales and profits are running 50 per cent over budget, indicating well over £2m for the current year. The West German subsidiary, bought for a single Deutsche Mark 18 months ago, is showing significant progress. Margins are low but, like Electrocomponents, the group does better selling from its large stock to those buyers whose own suppliers have become over-extended.

Boardman seeks new loans

By Graham Seargeant

Financial Editor

The future of K. O. Boardman, the Lancashire wholesale textile importer, depends on negotiations taking place with its seven different bankers to replace unsecured overdrafts with new secured loans, the company said in its annual report yesterday.

Boardman lost £190,000, in the year to March, on sales of £15m after re-organization costs and disclosed bank loans of £2.6m, down slightly on the year before.

The group regularly made a profit of about £1m until 1978. Mr G. S. Ruiz and the Wrengate group, which then took charge, bowed out at the end of last month, selling its controlling 26 per cent stake.

Mr Alex Humphreys, who built up the C & C Supermarkets chain, and chairs Stoke City football club, has now bought a stake and joined the board.

Boardman's shares have almost doubled from 7.5p since the change of control on hopes of a change of direction, but slipped back slightly to 13.5p yesterday.

Boardman has suffered from a long-running dispute with Customs & Excise, which seized clothing stocks valued at £535,000 alleging that they had been imported under incorrect import quota categories.

About £205,000 of stock was later returned but missed the autumn/winter season.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Sturges Investment
Year to 28.5.83
Pretax profit £96,000 (£52,000)
Stated earnings 4.05p (0.59p)
Turnover £8.5m (£8.7m)
Net dividend none (same)

Ash and Lucy
Half-year to 1.7.83
Pretax profit £1.5m (£1.4m)
Turnover £13.8m (£14.1m)
Net interim dividend 6p (same)

T. C. Harrison
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £1.5m (£1.5m)
Turnover £47.2m (£41.3m)
Net interim dividend 0.82p (0.82p)

Steel Brothers Holdings
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £5.8m (£4.5m)
Stated earnings 25.45p (26.61p)
Turnover £52.8m (£50.1m)
Net interim dividend 4p (3.6p)

Cass Group
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £467,000 (£433,000)
Stated earnings 4.1p (3.8p)
Turnover £3.6m (£2.6m)
Net interim dividend 1.25p (nil)

First Castle Electronics
Half-year to 31.7.83
Pretax profit £228,000 (£262,000)
Stated earnings 4.47p (5.53p)
Turnover £5.8m (£2.6m)
Net interim dividend 0.77p (0.7)

Scottish Metropolitan Property
Year to 15.8.83
Pretax profit £2.5m (£5.8m)
Stated earnings 4.51p (3.87p)
Net dividend 3.5p (same)

R. Cartwright (Holdings)
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £591,000 (£227,000)
Stated earnings 6.19p (2.7)
Turnover £8.7m (£5.2m)
Net interim dividend 1.5p (1.25p)

Armour Trust
Year to 30.4.83
Pretax profit £295,000 (£232,000)
Stated earnings 1.5p (1.4)
Turnover £3.4m (£3.5m)
Net dividend 0.165p (0.15p)

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Commodity	Unit	Price
Coffee, Robusta	£/cwt	178.25-179.00
Coffee, Arabica	£/cwt	190.00-191.00
Gas-oil	£/ton	180.00-181.00
Sugar	£/cwt	12.00-12.10
Wheat	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Barley	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Oats	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Maize	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Soyabean	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Linseed	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Mustard	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Peas	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Beans	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Lentils	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Chickpeas	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Wheat	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Barley	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Oats	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Maize	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Soyabean	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Linseed	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Mustard	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Peas	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Beans	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Lentils	£/cwt	1.00-1.01
Chickpeas	£/cwt	1.00-1.01

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Metal	Unit	Price
Copper	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Lead	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Aluminium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Steel	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Iron	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Gold	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Silver	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Platinum	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Palladium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Rhodium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Iridium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Osmium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Ruthenium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Technetium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Rhenium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Barium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Strontium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Calcium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Sodium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Potassium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Lithium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Boron	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Fluorine	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Chlorine	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Bromine	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Iodine	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Mercury	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Antimony	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Vanadium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Niobium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Tantalum	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Vanadium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Niobium	£/cwt	144.00-145.00
Tantalum	£/cwt	144.00-145.00

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

Month	Price
Dec 83	350.00
Mar 84	350.00
Jun 84	350.00
Sep 84	350.00
Dec 84	350.00
Mar 85	350.00
Jun 85	350.00
Sep 85	350.00
Dec 85	350.00
Mar 86	350.00
Jun 86	350.00
Sep 86	350.00
Dec 86	350.00
Mar 87	350.00
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Sep 12	350.00
Dec 12	350.00
Mar 13	350.00
Jun 13	350.00
Sep 13	

RACING

Piggott poised to swoop on speedy Salieri

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With £25,000 added to the sweepstakes, the Biscuit Cognac Challenge Stakes is the centrepiece of today's programme at Newmarket. Noalcoholic's race 12 months ago and he is in the field again, his reputation considerably enhanced in the meantime by that courageous front-running performance in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.

George Duffield, his regular rider, seems bound to adopt similar forcing tactics again just as he did in this event last year when he galloped Motavato into the ground. This time, though, he may fail to hold Lester Piggott and Salieri at bay. In fact, Noalcoholic's exit may be the sign of a new thrust of running, one that easily play into Piggott's hands as they will give him a lead and enable him to keep Salieri covered up and poised to strike in the seventh and last furlong.

Piggott got the lead that he wanted from that flying filly, Sobie, when Salieri was just pipped at Salieri by Annie Edge whom he will be meeting on 10 lb better terms now.

Salieri's chance of further success has been improved by the late withdrawal yesterday of Silver Dip who can run close at Ascot. Sandhurst Prince and Favourite would be his threats at their best, but whereas Salieri is definitely on song these days,

they appear to have gone off the boil.

Piggott also looks to have a good chance of winning the Fordham Handicap on Jade Ring, who is a chance rider. Willie Carson rode James Toiler's filly when she won over today's course and distance a fortnight ago, and he was fancying his chances of winning on her again until his suspension.

Collegian, my selection for the Graham Ford Nursery, was badly drawn for her last race at Kempton. She deserves another chance, especially as she had won her two previous races at Yarmouth and Ripon, the latter being a dead-heat with that sharp filly Leipzig.

It will take a smart newcomer to beat Falstaff and Sheer Heights in the Chesterton Maiden Stakes. Falstaff finished third behind the Dewhurst Stakes contender Rainbow Quest in his only race, while Sheer Heights was runner-up to Carrocet at Salisbury. In this instance I prefer Falstaff.

Craig Stewart (2.15) can initiate a double for the Epsom trainer John Smeeth who can also score with Paris Ring (4.20). Craig Stewart, who runs in the Buckenham Selling Stakes, has already won a similar race this season.

Newmarket

Draw: no advantage

Total: Double 2.45, 3.45, Treble 2.15, 3.15, 4.20

[Television (TV) 2.15, 2.45 and 3.15 races]

1.45 CHESTERTON STAKES (2-y-o maidens: 24.986-1m) (22 runners)

108	ATTONS (C) (Duffield) 9-2	109	ATTONS (C) (Duffield) 9-2
109	ATTONS (C) (Duffield) 9-2	110	ATTONS (C) (Duffield) 9-2
110	ATTONS (C) (Duffield) 9-2	111	ATTONS (C) (Duffield) 9-2
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From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

...and the

General Appointments

HORIZONS

The Times Guide to career development

Your own office at the top

The secret of success for the manager who wants to climb to the chief executive's office is the same as in anything else: it is merely a matter of doing all the little things right - every day. But as well as ability and hard work, luck is needed. Certainly, though, the days of nepotism and old-boy networks have largely gone.

During the next three weeks we will look at the different routes pursued by a selection of chief executives. We have broadly categorized these as: climbing the corporate ladder, going to business school, and founding your own company. It is, however, important to note that all chief executives are individuals and that crude facts can blur reality. For instance, most of the present and immediate past generation of chief executives (appointed typically in their fifties) experienced military service, and therefore carried significant life-or-death responsibility while still young. This may not be fully reflected in their CVs but may have added immeasurably to their experience and influenced their style of management.

Patronage by a senior can be helpful

Long hours are a common factor in the lives of careerists. Most modern top executives continue to work long hours and spend many nights away from home even when they get to the chief's office. In a questionnaire answered by 423 top UK executives, the Heidrick and Struggles consultancy found that the typical chief executive works a 52-hour week and travels overseas on business for five weeks a year. The predominant motivating element was found to be "personal satisfaction", which ranked far ahead of "continued high earnings and prosperity".

Though much publicity is given to external appointments, most senior appointments in British companies

Patricia Tisdall introduces a four-part series on how a modern manager makes it to chief executive

still come from within: the survey found that 75 per cent of chief executives had been promoted internally. Our own researches reveal that the chief executives of nine of the UK's 10 biggest companies have spent most of their working lives in the same organization. Moreover, there is little sign of change in the office since 54 per cent of the survey's respondents expected their successors to be a current subordinate and further 20 per cent expected an appointment to come from within the same group.

The statistics suggest that the ambitious middle manager would do well to pick an organization early in his career and try to catch the eye of the corporate talent-spotters. The most common sector for recruitment of top executives is marketing, followed by finance. A common problem for specialists, particularly in high-technology areas, is that simply keeping on top of their subject is a full-time activity. There is little energy to spare to absorb wider business or social horizons or to develop leadership through persuading others rather than by personal example.

Many middle managers find that patronage or even advice by a respected senior executive is helpful in making the break into general management. Formal business courses have also proved useful, if only in giving familiarity with the vocabulary used by other specialist colleagues. There are some areas such as marketing and more recently computer technology which permeate most aspects of modern business. It is significant that the survey found

that 61 per cent of chief executives claimed experience of marketing while 47 per cent said they were familiar with new technology.

Less established than for part-time or short business courses is the case for the full-time business administration Masters degree. However the preliminary evidence from the first generation of British MBAs, who are mostly still only in their early forties, is impressive. More than 40 per cent are reckoned to have reached director level or above.

The pleasures and risks of doing it yourself

There is certainly no doubt that modern managers generally hold higher educational qualifications than their predecessors. The survey found that 60 per cent of chief executives held either a university degree or some technical or professional qualification and that 19 per cent had been to business school.

The most frequent comment made by participants on business school courses is that it improves their self-confidence. The area where most self-confidence is needed is in starting a business, where, at least in the early days, proprietors are likely to have to rely entirely on their own judgment. The smaller the business, the closer is the proprietor to the market place. This means not only developing communicating skills in order to expand but also acquiring a sales rep's resilience in approaching potential customers.

Personal satisfaction may be higher in taking the do-it-yourself route to the chief executive's office - but so are risks. A high proportion of new businesses fail and failure often means not only the loss of a job but also personal assets such as a car and a house. However, at least according to the graphologists, extreme boldness is a hallmark of all potential high-flyers, whichever route they follow.

Philip Schofield

MARKET PLACE

Employment prospects for the three months to the end of the year are more encouraging than in any fourth quarter of the year since the end of 1979, according to a survey of 1,182 employers by Manpower. Twice as many expect to recruit additional staff as expect job losses. There is particular optimism in retailing, electrical engineering, clothing and textile manufacturing and banking. Recruitment activity in September continued to reflect the upward trend.

The seasonally adjusted number of vacancies notified to Jobcentres, about a third of the total market, in the three months ending September was 201,000. This was up by more than 23 per cent on the same period last year. The number of vacancies remaining unfilled in early September rose by over 52 per cent on last year. This indicates that the average time taken by employers to fill vacancies is increasing. The vacancies taking longest to fill

according to the MSC include electrical and electronic engineers and technicians, accountants, sales representatives, managers and vocational and industrial trainers.

Executive Post, PER's weekly jobs newspaper, carried advertisements for 3,000 vacancies in September - more than 57 per cent up on last year. The volume of recruitment advertising carried in the quality national newspapers also rose by 34 per cent.

RESEARCH INTERVIEWERS

Part time interviewers are required to work on government surveys in selected areas in England and Wales. Interviewers must be available at least 3 days and 3 evenings, Monday to Friday per week.

Age 20-45, extended slightly for those with related experience. Own car necessary in areas outside London, together with a good educational background and reasonable appearance. The work is hourly paid with a car mileage allowance and other expenses paid. Postcard to Mr Lee (T), O.P.C.S., Room 431, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

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For Engineering and Construction work with responsibility in the field of civil engineering, the successful candidate will be responsible for the design and construction of all types of structures, including bridges, roads, and railways. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and construction of all types of structures, including bridges, roads, and railways. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and construction of all types of structures, including bridges, roads, and railways.

TWO ENTERPRISING FRIENDS

To manage important business with vast potential in Europe, university town, 40 miles from London. Must be flexible and prepared to work alternate shifts. Good salary and super 25% profit share. Full opportunity. Tel: 01497 The Times

Welfare Officer

Applications are invited for the position of Welfare Officer to the Metropolitan Police in London.

Reporting to the Assistant Commissioner, Personnel and Training, the successful candidate will be required to demonstrate a capacity to understand and deal with the problems of police officers with particular reference to their personal, family, matrimonial and financial difficulties, often caused by the stresses and strains of police work in London.

Additionally he or she will be responsible for dealing with widows and pensioners, charitable funds, and other related social activities and for giving advice on retirement opportunities. A working knowledge of the current fiscal and legal procedures in this field is desirable.

Operating with a high degree of autonomy, within an extensive multi-discipline Personnel Department, he or she will also have the opportunity to develop the welfare function to meet the demands of a large modern and rapidly changing police force.

Ideally aged 40-50 (but certainly under 55), the successful candidate will have appropriate experience in personnel management, counselling, and all aspects of social welfare. He or she will need imagination and sensitivity coupled with organizational flair and the ability to cope with the welfare needs of 27,000 officers. The successful candidate will operate at all levels of management.

For this key post, based in central London, a salary within the scale of £13,649 rising to £17,906 per annum, inclusive of London weighting, is offered. There is a generous leave allowance and the post is pensionable.

Applications, in the form of a curriculum vitae, should be made to the Establishment Officer, Room 213 (W/O/T), 105 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AN, or by telephoning 01-230 3222 (24 hour service). Closing date for applications 7 November 1983.

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We are looking for someone to be responsible for the smooth running of the house, the recruitment of staff and the upkeep of staff records.

The ideal applicant will be aged 24+, with a good standard of education and abundant tact and discretion. Previous experience in staff selection and administrative procedures is essential. Word processing experience would be useful. The work is varied and demanding and an enthusiastic person will get considerable job satisfaction.

The position may suit a PAFee with relevant previous experience who is seeking increased responsibility.

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Journal of Management Education 30(6)p.789-806

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 35 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 17 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

Government committed to making cuts in tax

Continued from page 1

Would inflation be lower? Would growth be much higher? Would there be more jobs, higher standards in schools, better health care? He doubted whether there could be reassuring answers.

Mr Lawson had told the conference that the economy appeared to be growing up to 3 per cent rather than the 2 per cent forecast at the time of the budget. Sir Ian suggested that the growth was fully accounted for by personal and government consumption and that it had coincided with a serious weakening of the economy.

Observing that public expenditure was to be cut "for the umpteenth time since 1979" Sir Ian said that it would be an affront both to common sense and to Toryism if anything were done to make the unemployed worse off. It would be to doublecross them. To inflict greater hardship on the unemployed in order to cut taxes on the better off should be even more unthinkable.

Monetarism's legacy, page 14

Heseltine wants arms talks with Russia

Continued from page 1

kept the peace. "To these people, the rhetoric of defence is not enough."

"They have to be satisfied that governments are as concerned to reduce the scale of armaments as they are to explain the need for adequate defences in the first place. We have to satisfy this yearning and do it as part of an alliance facing a monolithic opponent."

He added: "We could each gain headlines but lose credibility if every Western ally were to be seen arguing publicly about their tactics towards the Soviet Union. But that is not a case for saying that we should not talk to the Soviet Union."

Mrs Thatcher said during her recent visit to Washington "We stand ready, if and when the circumstances are right, to talk to the Soviet leadership". She also said "It would seem sensible at some stage - and it is difficult to define when - that we do have more talks at all levels."

But she also said the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was a barrier.



Freud completes his grand masterpiece

By Geraldine Norman

Lucian Freud, the great British painter and grandson of Sigmund Freud, has been dreaming for many years of a big picture in the spirit and tradition of the Old Masters.

Now finished after three years' work, it is the largest painting he has ever executed and his only painting to include more than two figures.

The painting, entitled "Large Interior, W.I.I. (after Watteau)", which measures 73in by 78in, is to be shown in a one-painting exhibition at Agnew's in Bond Street, London, from November 1.

The composition is based on a charming little painting by the short-lived eighteenth century French master Antoine Watteau entitled "Pierrot Content".

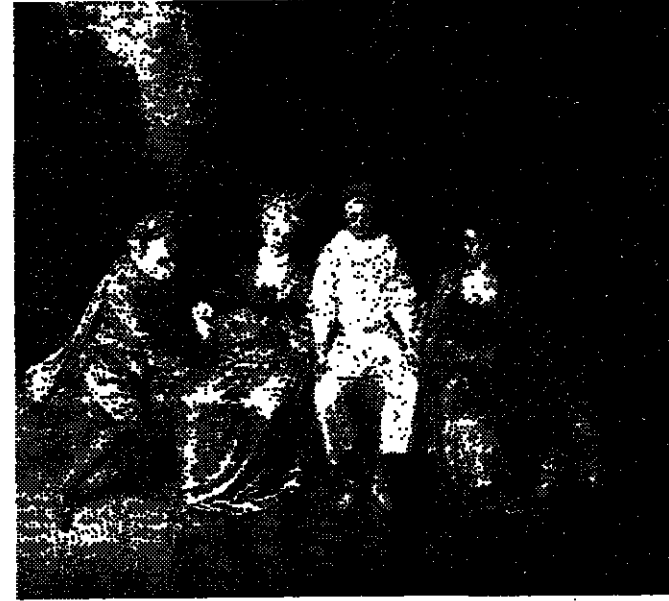
The Watteau belongs to Baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, the millionaire industrialist whose picture

collection at Lugano in Switzerland is one of the greatest in private hands anywhere in the world.

Only old friends sit for Freud, for it is a very time-consuming business and each of the models for the new group painting sat separately.

On the right is an old friend who posed for Freud's "Smiling Woman" of the 1950s. Freud's daughter is depicted playing the mandolin next to another close friend who posed for a painting bought by the British Council last year entitled "Naked Girl with Egg". The child is a daughter of friends and the setting is Freud's own studio in Notting Hill, London.

The painting belongs to Mr James Kirkman, Freud's agent, and is not for sale. The Agnew exhibition will include a number of drawings, some of which are not yet sold.



A detail from Watteau's "Pierrot Content".

Detective in ambush mistake 'shot to kill'

Continued from page 1

Stephens who had followed the man after it was hired.

They suspected that Mr Waldorf might be Mr Martin and when the car was stuck at a traffic jam, Constable Finch was sent to check. He knew Martin because he had taken part in his arrest some months before.

Sir Michael said: "There is no doubt that Finch had only been told to see if the man was Martin". He had been told not to arrest him.

As Constable Finch walked forward he drew his revolver, although police rules allow him to be unholstered only for firing.

Constable Finch thought he identified Mr Waldorf as Martin. The detective was said to have told an investigator later that he shouted that he was an armed policeman, but Sir Michael said witnesses did not hear a warning.

Then seeing a "sudden" movement for the man he took to be Martin, Constable Finch opened fire. Sir Michael said the people in the car were given no chance to surrender.

Another officer opened fire, then Constable Jardine moved forward, by which time Mr Waldorf was hanging out of the car through the driver's door. Constable Jardine from a distance of between 6 to 12 feet fired three shots at his head. Two of the shots missed.

Constable Jardine was alleged to have said later that Mr Waldorf was still moving and he thought he was still a threat. Asked what the shots were intended to achieve, he was said to have told a senior police officer: "I intended to totally incapacitate him and the only way to do that with a gun is to kill him."

Sir Michael said that after Constable Jardine stopped firing, Constable Finch hit Mr Waldorf on the head with his empty pistol. Witnesses said the weapon was raised to head height.

When questioned later Constable Finch was said to have claimed that he hit the man to stop him moving. As he stood over the man with his gun and Mr Waldorf was handcuffed, he realized it was the wrong man.

Innocent man "gunned down", page 2

Frank Johnson at Blackpool A battle of vowels and hair styles

The Conservative Conference, by its applause yesterday, seemed agreed that Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, had ever since his appointment been doing a fine job in his capacity as the down-market Lady Olga Maitland.

The experts such as Lady Olga deal with grand strategy, the more technical aspects of weapons systems, balanced force reductions, and so on. Mr Heseltine's job is to deliver simple but sincere appeals, defending the British nuclear deterrent and rebutting the peace movement, to normally apologetic groups such as the Conservative Party.

His campaign is effective because he does not make out that he is anything other than an ordinary husband from an unremarkable background of property dealing and magazine publishing. He deserved the acclaim he received from the conference when he sat down yesterday. But Lady Olga herself spoke too, and achieved a scarcely less well deserved success.

She, it may be remembered, is the founder of the anti-unilateralist organization, Families For Peace. By profession she is a gossip columnist. She prefers to be called a "diarist", as if she were akin to Sir Harold Nicolson rather than to Mr Nigel Dempster. So admirable is her organization, she shall have her wish here. Anyway, diarist or not, the work of this graceful patrician can be found in the *Sunday Express*, protected by only a few pages from the plebeian grunts of Sir John Junor's column.

She has been touring the conference all through the long season, holding fringe meetings and being struck at by peace-lovers largely of her own sex. But yesterday she was safe at last. She came before the conference to be warmly received for standing for the old Tory attitude to defence and, perhaps above all, the old Tory attitude to defence and, perhaps above all, the old Tory attitude towards vowels (as was pointed out in this space last week, in her speeches NATO tends to come out as what one might assume to be a hairspray call to NATO, and support for NATO in the Home Counties is none the worse for that).

Yesterday she told her fellow Conservatives of the

attempts that had been made to deny her a "hair hearing" - or, as she put it, "a hair hearing". Encased in a cream suit, every hair held in position by blasts of Neato, she incited Conservative womenhood to join her in her crusade. As she was applauded from the rostrum, Conservative womenhood pressed forward to congratulate her, or perhaps to secure the name of her dressmaker, for there were major issues at stake.

When it came to Mr Heseltine's turn, he could match the cut of the suit, but had no hope of matching the cut of the vowels. His are the unpretentious tones of the rustic estate agents of the Thames Valley, the sturdy folk who sent him back to Parliament with fine majorities at each general election. But he too had apparently been at the Neato.

Several aerosols of the substance appeared to have been used to keep the famous Danny La Rue-inspired bouffant in position for the tumultuous duration of the speech. For 20 minutes, Mr Heseltine's vowels shook as he breathed defiance against Mr Andropov, Mr Neil Kinnock, Mr David Steel, Dr David Owen and the other forces who stood between him and supreme power. The bouffant stayed in position.

Then, in mid-peroration, the hair's right hand support appeared to give way and crashed towards an aggressively padded shoulder. As Lady Olga would put it, people sitting nearby were in fear of a hairing. Miraculously, no-one was hurt.

In accordance with tradition, Mr Heseltine got his standing ovation. Otherwise, it was rather a lugubrious day Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the Commons, made a subtle and elegant speech completely rebutting the case for proportional representation, the sort of speech wasted on a conference Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, was overwhelmingly convincing on the economy, but oddly subdued. Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, answered questions from the floor on his subject, and the microphone went wrong leaving his agonized heart-searching silent and even more poignant, as well proving his case for a more skilled workforce.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Rothesay, opens a holiday home for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, 3. And later visits Grant House Home for the Elderly, Grantown, 4.10. The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Worshipful Company of Patternmakers, attends a service at St Margaret Pattens, EC3, 11.55; and a Court Luncheon at Cutlers Hall, EC4, 1.

Patron of the Association for All Speech Impaired Children, attends National AFASIC Week Charity Gala Concert, Guildhall, EC2, 7.40.

New exhibitions

Paintings and prints by Sandra McNeill, Dundee Repertory Theatre, Tay Square, Dundee; Mon to Sat 10 to 8 (until Oct 29).

Dutch Landscapes, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (until Dec 3).

Exhibitions in progress

All in the Family: Drawings from Blair Adam, National Gallery of

Scotland, The Mound, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Dec 23).

Hans Coper, potter, retrospective, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich; Tues to Sun 12 to 5 (until Dec 11).

Talks, lectures

Minerals planning in Avon, by P M Hales, Kimbell Room, 18 Queen Square, Bath, 7.30.

Watercolour, by Louise Amann, Harwick Lesser Town Hall, Harwick, 7.30.

Museums

Corinthus Museum, Chesham, 7.30.

Local history resources in

Doncaster, by Tim MacQuibben, DMBC Archives Department King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster, 2.

The beginnings of photography in Scotland, by Alison Morrison-Low, Collins Gallery, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow, 1.

Music

Concert by the Trio Felice: Vanessa Scott (soprano), Malcolm Green (clarinet) and Michael Duxes (piano), St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 7.30.

Requiem-Durante by Northampton Philharmonic Choir, Northampton, 7.30.

Piano recital by Margaret Fingert, the Triangle, Aston University, Birmingham, 1.

Concert by the Herceul Ensemble, University Hall, Bath, 7.30.

Concert by Edinburgh Quartet, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 7.45.

Harpichord recital by Ruth Dyson, Central Library, Bolton, 12.45.

Flute and harp recital by Myra Bennett and Carol Scott, Liverpool Parish Church, Pier Head, 1.05.

Concert by Wheatheaf Girls Choir, Hawtry Methodist Church, Doncaster, 7.30.

Concert by Broadland Singers with Malcolm Archer (organ), Norwich Cathedral, 7.30.

General

Society's Antique Road Show, in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Commodore Suite, Garter Hotel, Racombe Road, Ayr, 10 to 5.

Display of fashion accessories and underwear, Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby, 2.

New books - paperback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: A Dictionary of Catch Phrases, by Eric Partridge (Penguin, 25.95). Enter the Saint, by Leslie Charteris, new classic thriller series (Dart, 22.50). Flying to Nowhere, by John Funder (Penguin, 21.95). Lisa After Hattie, scenes from divorce, by A. Alvarez (Famigro, 21.95). The Impassioned, by Denis Mack Smith (Granta, 22.95). O Pioneers! by Willa Cather (Virago, 22.95). Providence, by Anita Brookner (Granta, 21.50). The Chandler Collection, volume 1 (Penguin, 22.95). The Impassioned, by Denis Mack Smith (Granta, 22.95). The Ponder Heart, by Eudora Welty (Virago, 22.50).

Asthma campaign

The focus is on asthma this week, with events to provide information for sufferers and to raise funds. Contributions to the Asthma Research Council would be welcome, addressed to Hugh Faulkner, Director, Asthma Research Council, St. Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. Information leaflets and a free copy of *Asthma News* are available from the same address - please enclose a first-class stamp.

Christmas mail

Tomorrow is the latest recommended posting date for Christmas cards and parcels being sent by ship to destinations including Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Malawi, Nigeria, Samoa, Arabia, and Venezuela. A leaflet, Overseas Christmas Mail 1983, is available free from post offices.

Foreign calls

Callers outside London can now make international directory inquiries for any of 200 countries (but not North America) by phoning 153. A new inquiry centre at Irvine, Scotland, has access to 800 overseas directories. In the past they have had to contact an international centre before being put through to an international directory inquiry operator.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.78	1.82
Austria Sch	26.70	27.10
Belgium Fr	85.75	79.75
Canada \$	1.91	1.84
Denmark Kr	14.70	14.00
Finland Mk	8.82	8.42
France Fr	12.32	11.82
Germany DM	4.05	3.86
Greece Dr	148.00	140.00
Hong Kong \$	12.50	12.28
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	2480.00	2340.00
Japan Yen	367.00	349.00
Netherlands Gld	4.56	4.33
Norway Kr	11.43	10.86
Portugal Esc	194.00	184.00
South Africa Rd	1.83	1.70
Spain Ptas	230.80	222.00
Sweden Kr	12.14	11.57
Switzerland Fr	3.30	3.13
USA \$	1.54	1.49
Yugoslavia Dnr	194.00	183.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency banks. Retail Prices Index: 338.0. London: The FT Index closed down 6.1 at 6921.1.

Weather forecast

A very strong SW airstream covers Britain, with a trough of low pressure over the SE at first.

6am to midnight

London, East Angles, SE, Central S, E England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Rain at first showers, sunny periods later; wind SW, fresh to strong, locally later; max temp 13 to 15C (55 to 59F). SW, NW, Central N England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Showers, rain, sunny intervals; wind mainly SW, strong to gale; max 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Sunny periods, showers, rain; wind mainly SW, strong to gale; max 11 to 12C (52 to 54F).

SE England, Kent, Essex, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Showers, rain, perhaps windy on hills; wind SW, veering NW, strong to severe gale; max 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Moody Fm, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers or rain; wind SW, strong to severe gale; max 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Continuing unsettled. Very windy and rather cold at times.

SEA PASSAGES: 8 North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW, gale or severe gale, veering W, strong to severe gale; max 10 to 12C (50 to 54F). St George's Channel, Irish Sea: SW, strong to gale, locally severe gale; sea very rough.

Lighting-up time

London 5.45 pm to 8.02 am. Edinburgh 5.55 pm to 7.01 am. Belfast 6.40 pm to 7.11 am. Sun 2.00 to 6 pm, 0.1 hr. Day, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.01/5.5 m, 29.53 in.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud, 1, rain, r, rain s, s, s.

Station	C	F	Station	C	F
Belfast	10	50	London	14	57
Birmingham	15	59	Manchester	12	54
Bristol	15	59	Newcastle	10	50
Cardiff	11	52	Nottingham	12	54
Edinburgh	10	50	Sheffield	10	50
Glasgow	10	50	Southampton	15	59

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 15C (59F), min 9 pm to 11 pm, 9C (48F). Humidity: 6 pm, 70%. Wind: 10 to 15 mph, 10 to 15 mph, 10 to 15 mph. Sun: 2.00 to 6 pm, 0.1 hr. Day, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.01/5.5 m, 29.53 in.

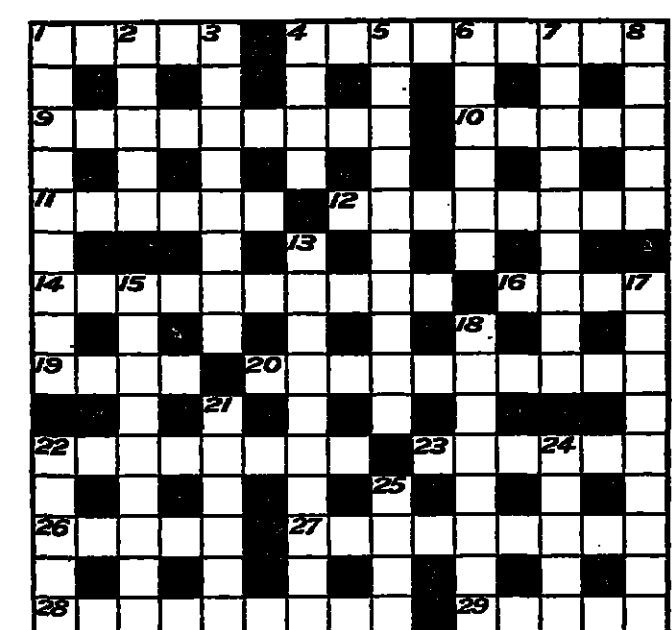
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Long Kesh 19C (66F), lowest day temp: Lough Beg 10C (50F). Lowest night temp: Douglas 1.10C (34F), highest sunrise: Birmingham 2.20C (72F).

Abroad

Algeria: 22 to 28. Argentina: 12 to 22. Australia: 22 to 28. Belgium: 12 to 18. Brazil: 22 to 28. Canada: 12 to 18. China: 12 to 18. Denmark: 12 to 18. France: 12 to 18. Germany: 12 to 18. Greece: 12 to 18. Hong Kong: 12 to 18. India: 12 to 18. Italy: 12 to 18. Japan: 12 to 18. Korea: 12 to 18. Malaysia: 12 to 18. Mexico: 12 to 18. New Zealand: 12 to 18. Norway: 12 to 18. Pakistan: 12 to 18. Philippines: 12 to 18. Portugal: 12 to 18. Singapore: 12 to 18. South Africa: 12 to 18. Spain: 12 to 18. Sweden: 12 to 18. Switzerland: 12 to 18. Taiwan: 12 to 18. Thailand: 12 to 18. Turkey: 12 to 18. USA: 12 to 18. USSR: 12 to 18. Venezuela: 12 to 18.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,259



ACROSS

- Route takes in mazy a beauty spot (5).
- Company car? (3-6).
- Formal welcome artist gives Botticelli's work (9).
- Expelled - or let off? (5).
- Sliding device to put grape through, perhaps (6).
- Daylight saving procedure begins to work (6,2).
- Keep out of limelight, on account of Simon (10).
- They were wise not to leave line of defence (4).
- Reverse of established church, in a way (4).
- Such relations are possibly associated with falsity (5,5).
- Liquid required by 11 (8).
- Damaging 3 as much as one can bear (6).
- Do this to be married or single (5).
- Method of signalling change of score, in a fashion (5,4).
- Romp provides two things necessary for stage run (9).
- Stylish old vehicles coming back (5).

DOWN

- Youngsters in the rag trade (5-4).
- Chinese agent society outbombed by Wallace's just men (5).
- Having suffered serious loss in battle, according to Tweedledee (8).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,258

